

Kuwaiti premier to visit S. Arabia

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Sabah will visit Saudi Arabia Saturday for talks on bilateral issues, Kuwaiti officials said Sunday. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting the trip was planned before a gunboat attack on Kuwait's Bubiyan Island last Wednesday which Kuwait blamed on Iran. But diplomats said the Bubiyan attack, in which Kuwait said two of its soldiers were wounded, was likely to be discussed by Sheikh Saad and his counterpart Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia hold similar views within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on relations with Iran and have previously cooperated in defence. A Saudi military delegation headed by Colonel Abdul Aziz Turki Al Atshaan, head of military works at the Saudi Defence Ministry, is currently visiting Kuwait. Rashid said the cabinet discussed a report on the Bubiyan incident and "measures taken to prevent its repetition," without elaborating. Iran has denied Kuwait's report on the incident.

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5 Muslim leaders to meet in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Four Muslim heads of state and PLO leader Yasser Arafat will meet in Kuwait next week to discuss the Gulf, Afghanistan and the Israeli-occupied territories, diplomatic sources said Sunday. They said the two-day meeting of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) committee heads starting April 10 would discuss regional developments since the January 1987 Islamic summit. The open agenda was likely to be dominated by the Iran-Iraq war, Soviet proposals to end the Afghan war and the four-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, they said. Apart from Arafat, presidents Mohammed Zia Ul Haq of Pakistan, Kenan Evren of Turkey and Maumoon Abdul Ghuayoom of the Maldives were expected to join Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah for the meeting. Senegal, Morocco and Gabon would send lower-ranking officials, the diplomats said. At its last summit, the 46-member OIC asked Sheikh Jaber to follow up efforts to end the war between Iran and Iraq. But Iran, which boycotted the summit on the grounds that Kuwait favoured Iraq, has rejected new OIC initiatives. The 1987 summit also called for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, whose OIC membership was suspended after Moscow's 1979 intervention.

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King congratulates Senegal, Hungary

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of good wishes Sunday to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf on his country's Independence Day. The King wished the president continued health and happiness and more progress and prosperity for the people of Senegal. King Hussein sent a similar cable of good wishes to the Hungarian president on his country's Independence Day.

Sudan faces meningitis threat

KHARTOUM (R) — Hospitals were jammed with patients Sunday as a deadly meningitis epidemic gripped Sudan's capital. Official figures show 4,000 of the capital's four million people have contracted the disease. The government has announced that 82 people had died of meningitis throughout the country. No further figure has been given but press reports say the toll is now well over 100. Health officials said 250 new cases were reported every day in the last week of March.

Israeli arms company signs U.S. contract

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli arms company Sultam has signed a contract with the U.S. army worth hundreds of millions of dollars, managing director Elazar Barak said Sunday. He told Israel Radio the contract was for 120-mm mortars and accompanying ammunition but he could not give a final figure because of U.S. budget constraints and military restrictions. The announcement followed a report in Britain's Sunday Times newspaper that Israel had signed a deal to supply advanced missile warheads and warplane technology to China (See page 5).

Arab fund readmits Egypt

MUSCAT (R) — The 21-member Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) decided Sunday to readmit Egypt after a nine-year suspension imposed when Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel, the Omani News Agency reported. It said the Kuwait-based AFESD, which helps finance development projects in Arab states, announced the decision in a statement. Finance ministers from 16 Arab states are in Oman for a two-day meeting expected to finalise a \$500-million plan to boost trade between Arab countries.

Afghanistan creates new province

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Soviet-backed Afghan government Sunday announced the formal creation of a controversial new province merging parts of two provinces along Afghanistan's border with the Soviet Union. The province of Saripul, carved from the southern portions of Balkh and Jauzjan provinces, was officially established Saturday under a decree issued by President Najibullah, the official Kabul Radio said. The radio said a 13-member provincial council elected an elder of the area, Gharib Hussain, as the first governor of Afghanistan's 30th province. Kabul announced plans for the new province March 24 without giving a reason. Pakistan-based Afghan rebels rejected the move, saying it was another effort to show the world that the Kabul government was in control.

INSIDE

- Jordanian mosaics on world tour, page 2
- Arabs seek to boost health services in occupied territories, page 3
- A thorny road ahead, page 4
- Israel, China said to have signed secret deal, page 5
- JEA maintains low rate of growth in annual electricity demand, page 6
- Sweden nets 2-0 to bag four-nation soccer cup, page 7
- Dukakis-Jackson ticket could beat Bush, page 8

Israeli army on new uprising 'offensive'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin conceded Sunday that the Israeli army had taken the offensive to quell the 16-week Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and Easter festivities were cancelled because of the violence.

Rabin, on a tour of the occupied Gaza Strip, told reporters troops initiated clashes with Palestinian protesters Saturday, the bloodiest day of the uprising in which six Arabs were killed. "In the majority of the incidents, not in all of them, the confrontations were a result of our initiative with the goal of ensuring calm by taking action against violence, in order to suppress the violence," he said.

Two Palestinians died Sunday. Violent protests broke out in the West Bank town of Tulikarm after a Palestinian was killed when he tried to raise a Palestinian flag on an electricity pole, an army spokesman said.

According to the army version of the incident, the boy died when he fell off the pole and his head hit the ground. But Palestinian sources said 15-year-old Maamoun Abdul Rahin was shot by troops when he tried to raise the Palestinian flag.

Rabin's family took his body from a nearby hospital and carried it through Tulikarm in a mass procession. One border policeman was injured by a stone when trying to break up the march, Israel Radio said. The army clamped a curfew on part of

the town. In another incident, the army said Khalil Jaber Hamzawi, 18, died when soldiers ordered him to climb a pole and take down a flag from a utility pole in the Askar refugee camp near Nablus.

New policy Rabin said Saturday's bloody clashes were "outbursts of hostilities" that did not represent a worsening of the violence.

"Basically, especially with the Gaza Strip, we see relative tranquility, with here and there outbursts of hostilities, but they are being coped with very effectively," he said.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper quoted military sources as saying the army had adopted a new policy of entering even remote Arab villages to break up protests instead of ignoring demonstrators as long as they did not endanger lives or interfere with traffic on the main roads.

Sheik Saadeddin Alami, the 77-year-old mufti of Jerusalem, told a reporter from his hospital bed that he suffered heart problems after an Israeli policeman struck him Friday as he sought permission to allow TV cameras into the Al Aqsa Mosque

area. At Ramallah hospital, 16 kilometres north of Jerusalem, a 40-year-old Arab died of wounds he suffered Wednesday in a clash with Israeli soldiers. During the clash, Ali Diab Abu Ali of the West Bank village Yatta, was shot in the neck and paralysed, said a doctor who spoke on condition of anonymity.

His death brought to 136 the number of Palestinians killed in four months of anti-Israeli protests, according to U.N. figures.

Celebrations cancelled Latin Patriarch for the Holy Land Michael Sabbah cancelled all Easter celebrations, including a traditional procession in Jerusalem's walled Old City.

Far fewer pilgrims arrived in Jerusalem this year. About 1,000 pilgrims from around the world attended Easter Sunday services in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Church officials said the number of worshippers dropped by half from last year, apparently because many pilgrims were scared away by the violence in the occupied territories.

Security was low-key Sunday at the Crusader-built church, where about half a dozen uniformed police stood guard in the courtyard and at the entrance.

But dozens of soldiers were stationed throughout the Old City, some on rooftops and others patrolling the narrow cobblestone streets. An Israeli policeman was stabbed in the Old City Friday.

Palestinian shopkeepers opened stores around the church from morning until noon.



ARMY EXERCISES: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday attends military exercises carried out by Armed Forces units as part of their annual training activities. At the outset of the King's field visit, he was briefed on military exercises programmes. The King watched shooting exercises using live ammunition (Petra photo)

Iraq reports raids on Iranian refineries, says gunboats sunk

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The "war of the cities" between Iran and Iraq appeared to have been renewed Sunday with Baghdad reporting attacks on two Iranian refineries but Tehran claiming the targets were civilian.

Baghdad also reported sinking six Iranian gunboats in the Gulf. An Iraqi high command statement said Iraqi jets attacked and set on fire oil refineries in the Iranian cities of Esfahan and Tabriz Sunday.

"The Iraqi planes raided the two refineries, setting them ablaze at 2.40 p.m. (1040 GMT)," the communique said. It said the raids "were aimed at inflicting further destruction on the economic platforms financing the Iranian regime in its aggression on Iraq."

A report carried by the Iranian

news agency, IRNA, said residential areas were hit in the attack, killing five people and wounding 50 others.

The attacks, which were among 140 jet-fighter combat missions reported by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) during the day, signalled a rekindling of the "war of the cities" after a 2½-day break.

Hundreds of civilians have been killed or wounded in more than a month of missile or warplane raids.

In the ground war, IRNA denied Iraqi forces had defeated Iran's troops and their Kurdish allies in the mountainous north-east of Iraq last week.

Iraq said its forces sank six Iranian gunboats during the night as they attempted to approach an offshore oil platform in the northern reaches of the Gulf during the night. Iraq denied it.

The Iraqi attacks on Isfahan and Tabriz came about six hours after Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left the Iraqi capital. Baghdad had ceased its attacks on Iranian cities during his visit, and had announced it would not resume attacks for six hours after he left.

Turkish sources said Ozal, who arrived in Ankara later Sunday, had proposed a lasting cease-fire in missile and warplane raids on cities that began Feb. 29, but neither Turkish nor Iraqi officials would comment publicly on this.

Ozal said in a departure statement that Turkey was trying to help the United Nations end the 7½-year-old war between its two neighbouring states.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told journalists accompanying the Turkish prime minister that Iraq was willing to stop raiding cities if Tehran accepting conditions laid down by Baghdad

late last month. INA reported. The conditions included an end to aggression on Iraq's border and attacks on civilian areas.

Iraq also said there was a need to differentiate between residential areas and economic facilities used to fuel Iran's war machine, which it regards as legitimate targets.

Ozal told INA before he left that last July's U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 ordering an immediate ceasefire was the only sound basis to end the Iran-Iraq war.

He said Turkey, which is neutral in the war and maintains good relations with both sides, supported the United Nations in its efforts to stop the fighting.

Ozal, who visited Tehran in late February, and President Saddam Hussein earlier called for an end to the war "taking into consideration the rights of Iraq and Iran."

Baghdad conditionally accepted the U.N. resolution but it was ignored by Tehran which says it will continue fighting until Iraq is branded as "the aggressor."

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Tahar Yassin Ramadan, who saw Ozal at Baghdad airport, said his talks had helped to improve friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

In an interview with Anatolian news agency, Ramadan called on Turkey to step up security along the Iraqi border, where he implied that pro-Iranian Kurdish guerrillas were active.

Dudin, Khayyat condemn attack on Alami

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Two Jordanian Cabinet members Sunday denounced an assault by Israeli authorities on a prominent Muslim cleric in Jerusalem.

Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin described the action as "shameless" and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Khayyat said it was a "most violent and inhumane attack" against the Islamic community around the world.

Sheik Saadeddin Alami, the mufti of Jerusalem and the highest-ranking Islamic religious figure, said he suffered heart problems after an Israeli policeman struck him Friday as he was asking police to let TV cameras into the Al Aqsa Mosque compound.

"When I was trying to speak to them, one hit me very hard on my back... they pushed me very hard, and I fell," said the 77-year-old mufti, speaking in a near-whisper from his bed at Al Muqassas hospital, according to news reports.

He said he suffered heart failure immediately after the incident. "My health is very bad. I cannot take one injury," he said. An Israeli police spokesman denied Alami was attacked.

"Israel's aggression on Alami is a violation of international and human laws and traditions," Khayyat said. "Alami is not only our religious leader in the occupied lands, but he is also a symbol of the uprising," he said.

Khayyat said Alami was attacked after Friday prayers at Al Aqsa. He said an Israeli soldier hit the mufti with a stick on the "back of his head a few times till he fell unconscious."

Khayyat said that Jordan had appealed to the United Nations and international circles in Europe and the United States to stop Israel's aggression.

He also sent cables to religious affairs leaders in Islamic countries, the World Islamic League and other forums to inform them of "Israel's hostile acts against innocent Palestinians and the increasing threats against the Muslim community."

Chinese envoy delivers message to Saudi leader

RIYADH (Agencies) — A senior Chinese envoy arrived here Sunday carrying a message from President Li Xianmin to King Fahd dealing with the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian problem, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The SPA dispatch made no reference to the reported recent deployment by Saudi Arabia of Chinese-supplied missiles, which has prompted an expression of concern by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Last month Saudi Arabia confirmed it was buying Chinese intermediate-range missiles. According to U.S. State Department officials, the deal involved CSS-2 missiles with a range of 3,500 kilometres.

SPA said Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan handed the written message to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

It added this was a reply to two messages dealing with the Gulf war and the Palestinian problem King Fahd sent to Peking last month in his capacity as chairman of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The contents of the messages were not revealed.

Before leaving Peking for Saudi Arabia Qi said in an interview that "any delay in a peaceful and just settlement of the Middle East problem can no longer be tolerated." He also called on Israel to withdraw from Arab territories occupied since the 1967 war.

After their annual meeting in December, the GCC heads of state entrusted Fahd to press the

five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to work for a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian problem.

Fahd complied by sending envoys to the five powers, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France, even though Saudi Arabia has no diplomatic relations with communist states.

Israel may launch attack Meanwhile, London's Sunday Telegraph reported that Israel may be considering an air attack on Saudi Arabia's new missile bases.

Citing unidentified British diplomatic sources in Tel Aviv, the Telegraph said: "Any Israeli attack would have the most serious political and military implications."

It said the sources "feel that a pre-emptive attack, similar to those launched against Iraq's nuclear reactor and the PLO headquarters in Tunis in October 1985, remains very likely."

The weekly said U.S.-Saudi relations are at their lowest point for many years following the Saudi acquisition of "perhaps 50 Chinese CSS-2 ballistic missiles."

The Sunday Times speculated that the Saudis might eventually fit the missiles with nuclear warheads developed by Pakistan. An Israeli air strike with F-15 aircraft would be at long range and would require several refuellings, while the Saudis might retaliate with their British-supplied Tornado bombers, the newspaper said.

Shultz begins Middle East peace shuttle

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz began an Easter peace shuttle Sunday, convinced peace can be reached in the Middle East but sober about the prospects for a quick breakthrough.

Quoting from the Book of Ecclesiastes, Shultz made a strong appeal to end debate on his peace proposals. "For everything there is a season... a time to love and a time to hate; a time to war and a time for peace." And: "This is the time and the season to move decisively towards peace."

His remarks appeared aimed primarily at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who told reporters during a visit to an occupied West Bank settlement Sunday that Shultz had to "convince me" of the need for an international peace conference.

Shultz's third Middle East shuttle came since October began after a sharp escalation of bloodshed in the past week in which 20 Palestinians have been killed and scores more shot by Israeli soldiers.

PLO restates stand In Tunis, the Palestinian Li-

beration Organisation (PLO), in a statement issued Sunday, reaffirmed its rejection of the American Middle East peace plan. A statement from the PLO's Executive Committee said the Palestinian people were unanimous in wanting "to thwart the dangerous American plans."

It said: "The just and global solution must be based on the achievement of the national rights of the Palestinian people, under the direction of the PLO, its sole, legitimate representative."

The PLO also restated "its categorical refusal of all projects aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause," and said that "the adequate framework for a just solution resides in an international conference."

The PLO Executive Committee paid homage to "the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people in the face of repression, crimes and terrorism practiced by the Israeli occupier," and expressed its "great consideration to the Israeli democratic forces for their support of the Palestinian uprising."

In a leaflet last week, under-

ground leaders called a general strike in the West Bank and Gaza Monday to protest the Shultz visit. They demanded Palestinians avoid meeting Shultz during his visit.

Speaking to reporters in the Israeli military settlement of Givat, Shamir said the Arabs were accomplishing nothing with violence and predicted arranging peace talks would be lengthy process.

"I'm sceptical about all the prophecies that the talks will have some kind of result, a breakthrough," said Shamir, who called for Shultz to concentrate on the substance of a settlement and not the logistics of starting negotiations.

"We have to talk about substance and content. How will peace

be established and on what basis? What are the Arabs ready for? We haven't heard anything about this," said Shamir.

Israeli officials said Shultz, who will visit Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan, may bring draft copies of invitations to an international conference which Shamir has steadfastly opposed.

A U.S. official described part of Shultz's trip as a jawboning mission designed to persuade Arab and Israeli public opinion on the need for talks. To that end, he was to speak on Israel Television Sunday night and later in the week on Jordan Television.

"I feel it in my bones that there's an answer out there if you can only find it," Shultz told a news conference Saturday at the U.S. embassy in Rome.

Moscow seeks new Afghan options

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Kabul Sunday, saying he planned to confer with Afghan President Najibullah on policy options in case Geneva peace talks failed, TASS news agency said.

Shevardnadze told a TASS reporter at Kabul airport that Afghan and Soviet efforts at the Geneva talks were not being matched by the United States and Pakistan.

"Unfortunately, because of the unhelpful position of Pakistan and the United States at these talks, serious problems have

arisen," he said.

"In this connection, it is necessary to consider and agree with the Afghan government various options in all their aspects in case the Geneva process does not produce the desired results."

A separate TASS commentary on the Geneva talks aimed at ending the Afghan war criticised U.S. and Pakistani positions as unconstructive and dismissed their calls for "symmetry" in cutting off aid to the warring sides.

The Geneva talks recessed Thursday for the Easter holiday and were to resume Monday.

A diplomatic source in Geneva

said Sunday that negotiators were waiting for a formal Soviet response to Washington's proposal that Moscow cease arms shipments to Kabul at the same time aid to the rebels is halted.

Shevardnadze's visit was likely to include a discussion with Najibullah on the U.S. proposal and on the general state of the Geneva talks.

Soviet officials had placed high hopes on getting a peace agreement out of the U.N.-mediated negotiations that began in Geneva March 2. But the talks stalled over the question of foreign military assistance to the two sides.

FAO: N. Africa locust invasion critical

RABAT (R) — Huge swarms of desert locusts edging closer to North African crop areas have created a critical situation requiring massive international aid to forestall disaster, officials said.

Adel Cortas of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rabat told Reuters that Tunisia had requested 50 tonnes of pesticide, 350 mechanical sprayers and 50 two-way radios to confront the swarms which have devastated olive, fig and pomegranate plantations in the south.

Morocco urgently needs an extra 200 tonnes of pesticides, eight more light aircraft and 2,000 nozzles, he said.

Algeria, which has received aid from the European Community

and Saudi Arabia, needs to treat 1.8 million hectares of infested desert in the next two months.

"The situation is critical. We have to be very careful and constantly on the watch. A change of wind could spell disaster," Cortas said in an interview Friday.

In late April and May, prevailing winds should change and drive the locusts south towards the Sahel area. If not, they will continue to move north towards the major grain-growing areas in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia at harvest time.

He said that at a meeting with representatives of donor countries in Rabat Thursday, the FAO called for more urgent aid so that the locusts can be brought under

control before the weather changes.

A major problem is the type of insecticide used. The four widely used are effective for only three to four days.

Dieldrin, the deadliest insecticide, is effective for five to six weeks, but it is banned in most countries because it is ecologically harmful and can kill anything that creeps, crawls or flies, Cortas said.

Even if the invasion towards the Mediterranean is halted, Cortas said, "the danger will not be dispelled, it will simply go somewhere else" in a vast arc stretching from the Atlantic to the Red Sea covering 30 million square kilometres.

Jordan's mosaics on world tour

Reprinted from
Jordan Magazine

MILLIONS of people who have never visited Jordan are now being given the opportunity to see some of its finest Byzantine mosaics. On tour abroad for the first time is a stunning exhibition of some 80 pieces chosen from the wealth of mosaic art discovered in various parts of the country.

Organised as a travelling show by the Jordan Department of Antiquities, it is a rare event not likely to occur again, due to the fragility and value of the ancient artifacts it contains. What amounts to tons of mosaic pavement, many of them quite large in size, are being carefully transported from city to city and continent to continent — a project perhaps too risky to be repeated.

The exhibition premiered in Rome in the spring of 1986, then went on to two museums in Austria. In March 1987, it moved to West Germany, where it was shown in Munster, Munich and Berlin museums; and by spring this year, it will be on its way across the Atlantic to begin its tour in the United States and Canada.

The mosaics in the exhibit, dating from the sixth to early eighth centuries A.D., come from a number of Byzantine sites in Jordan, among them Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Khirbet al-Mukhayyat, Ma'in, Khirbet as-Samra, Mas-suh and Jerash, where they were found beneath the ruins of early Christian churches, public buildings and other ancient structures. The largest single piece among them is a mid-sixth-century pavement measuring 40 square metres

in size. It was uncovered at al-Mukhayyat, a site located between Mt. Nebo and Madaba which is believed to be the actual town of biblical Nebo.

Most of these Byzantine mosaics were once the decorative floors of churches, yet their imagery is seldom religious in character. Christian iconography or biblical scenes are rare; instead there is an emphasis on design, geometric or arabesque, and on the animistic and symbolic portrayal of subjects pertaining to everyday life. The al-Mukhayyat tapestry is a typical example: it depicts a ritual frequently featured in Byzantine church mosaics. The annual harvesting of grapes. Enclosed within swirling patterns of foliage are the lively figures of men and women, their baskets filled with grapes; and interspersed among them, some friendly some fearsome, are the various animals that share their environment — lions, wild boar, wolves, sheep, peacocks, birds and fish.

Of the few mosaics based on a religious motif is one from Ma'in, where a number of Byzantine church mosaics have been found. Dated 730 A.D. and originally consisting of a huge pavement, it survives now only in fragments. Included in the exhibition are several pieces, ranging from one to two square metres in size, that are all pictures of various churches that must have existed then in Palestine and Jordan. They once formed part of the mosaic's border, which in its complete state probably contained 24 similar portrayals. In concept, style and original size, it must have been no less impressive than the grand tapestry installed some 60 years later in the Church of St. Stephen at Umm er-Rasas.



The Madaba Map

Still in its original place on the floor of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Madaba, this imaginatively illustrated mosaic is especially prized for its historical content. It is, uniquely, the oldest existing map of the Holy Land, making it a rare source of information on the topography and onomastics of the region 1,400 years ago. It shows sites of significance in biblical history, some never before identified. Scores of cities and towns, including the old walled city of Jerusalem, are portrayed and named; the Dead Sea, the Jordan River, the Nile and all surrounding mountains and valleys are delineated and identified.

Unknown and neglected for more than a thousand years, the mosaic first came to light in 1884, when its existence in Madaba was reported to the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem. Another twelve years passed, however, before its importance was recognised and efforts to preserve it were made. In 1896, during the building of a new church over the ruins of the ancient basilica where the mosaic lay, a scholar visiting the site saw the map and hastened to inform his colleagues in Jerusalem of its value. Unfortunately,

construction work by then had totally destroyed large sections of the mosaic pavement.

The map, in its original, complete form, is believed to have measured approximately 190 square metres. Executed in the mid-sixth century to adorn the transept of an early Byzantine church, it contained the illustrated cartography of a geographical area extending from Damascus in the north to Petra in the south and from central Jordan in the east to the Mediterranean, the Nile Delta and Alexandria in the west. The principal fragment preserved and now existing measures about 30 square metres — less than one-sixth of the original. At its centre, virtually intact, is Jerusalem.

Unlike the north-south orientation of modern cartography, the Madaba map is laid out to be read east-west. To the mosaicist who designed the map, this approach was logical and correct. The church for which it was created, like the church that houses it now, was traditionally oriented to the east and entered from the west. Thus, the mosaic pavement was laid out in the same direction, so that anyone entering the church would be facing both the

east of the map and the true east geographically. The east-west orientation is also followed in the details of the map, such as in the depiction of building facades and the placement of inscriptions — all are meant to be viewed by a person facing east.

Counting an average of 120 mosaic cubes per square decimeter, it is estimated that about 2.3 million stone tesserae were used to produce the entire original map. Calculating that an expert can lay up to 200 cubes an hour, and given a minimum team of three full-time workers, execution of the pavement must have taken a full year, not including the many hours spent on laying foundations, preparing designs and cutting cubes.

The mosaic includes a wide variety of colours — different shades of red, green and blue; browns, greys and yellows; violet, black and white — all found in the natural stone of the region. Specific hues were utilised to define changes in topography, the lowlands and valleys appear in the light colours, while darker tones are used for hills and mountains. Rivers and seas are deep blue, with waves traced in brown and black. Red-tiled roofs designate churches and official buildings, and all images are outlined with a single line of black cubes. Where the background is light in

colour, inscriptions appear in black or red; where the background is dark, the lettering is set in white.

Most of the inscriptions, which are all in Greek, give the sixth-century place names. Some places are also identified by their earlier names, such as the Dead Sea, which is described as "The Lake of Salt and Asphalt." Of the various legends included in the map, several are verses from the Bible, while the others refer to the special character of a place or give a brief account of an event that occurred at the site.

The artist also created specific symbols to convey the size of a city or village. Small cities, such as Jericho, are represented by a wall with four or five towers. Large villages are indicated by three or four towers connected by a wall with one or more gates. And smaller communities are marked by two towers or squares.

In style and pictorial profusion, the Madaba map is typically Byzantine and a forerunner to the illustrated cartography of the Middle Ages. Trees, plants, animals, fish, boats, human figures and inscriptions, while of informative value today, were often added by the artist simply as decorative motifs to fill the empty spaces between geographical sites. The mosaicist also

exercised freedom — and emphasised his religious affiliation — in the selection of biblical sites and references. Study of the surviving fragment of the map reveals a preponderance of New Testament localities over those mentioned in the Old Testament.

The Umm er-Rasas pavement

Exceptional in size and beauty, and as historically valuable as the Madaba map, the mosaic church pavement discovered at Umm er-Rasas is one of the most splendid pieces in Jordan's outdoor museum. Umm er-Rasas, which means "mother of lead," had long been known by archaeologists to contain the remains of a Byzantine town. To the Jordanian-Italian team that began excavating the site last summer, it was a most likely spot to look for mosaics.

Under the direction of the noted specialist in Late Roman-Byzantine mosaics, Father Michael Piccirilli of the Franciscan Archaeological Institute, and Taysir Atiyat of the Jordan Department of Antiquities, the team almost immediately uncovered a remarkable cache of not one, but two large, well-preserved mosaic tapestries. They were found beneath the ruins of two adjacent Byzantine churches, each measuring some 23 by 15 metres

Detail from the Madaba Map (above) showing the Jordan River where it flows into the Dead Sea. To the left of the fish swimming in opposite directions is a ferry spanning the river, possibly at the same location as the present Prince Mohammad (Damieh) Bridge. Below the river, among the palm trees and depicted with prominence, is the city of

Jericho. The lively scene above the river, showing a gazelle being pursued by a lion (most of its body destroyed), suggests the variety of animal life that once thrived in the Jordan Valley, while the shrubs placed on either side of the river symbolise the valley's rich vegetation.

in size and belonging to a wider complex of religious structures on the site.

The most important mosaic of the two, in historical content, is the pavement that fills the nave of the Church of St. Stephen. An inscription found in the nave indicates 786 A.D. as the completion date of the church, which gives its decorative tapestry the distinction of being the latest known Byzantine mosaic in Jordan. The inscription (in Greek, as are all others) informs of the dedication of the church to St. Stephen and adds that it was built by John, son of Isaac, "deacon and chief of the people of Castron Mephaoon." Such details point to the continued presence of a thriving Christian community well into the Islamic era and reinforce other accumulated evidence of peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims in the region.

Title inscriptions contained in the mosaic also provide new information on the ancient names of cities. Several of those listed, such as Dhiblaton and Limbon, are not mentioned in any other historical source. One inscription, of special interest, establishes the original name of Umm er-Rasas. It is identified in Greek as *Castron Mephaoon* (Mephaoon Camp), which corresponds to the early Arabic *Mephah* and the biblical *Mephah-a-ath*, mentioned in Joshua and Jeremiah as a city in the Kingdom of Moab.

Other inscriptions along one side of the mosaic identify the church's benefactors. Most of them are Arabic names, such as *Gumela* (Jamileh), *Ayyas*, and *Petros Arabo* (Peter the Arab). One inscription, brief, modest and devout, reads: "Oh Lord, remember your servant the mosaicist whose name you

know." It bears no signature.

In composition and style, the tapestry is typically Byzantine, without the suggestion of Roman influence that appears in earlier mosaics. Perspective is flat and two-dimensional; and images are stylised and proportioned to fit into the repetitive patterns of the overall design. The central section of the mosaic is made up of alternating square and circle medallions, each enclosing a realistic depiction of daily life: Hunting scenes, wine-making animals, trees and the like. The surrounding border is composed of a wide panel that portrays, in somewhat skyline images, the various cities of the region. Identified by their eighth-century names, they include 7 in Jordan, 8 in Palestine and 10 in Egypt, among them Amman, Madaba, Karak, Jerusalem, Nabhus, Gaza and Alexandria.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:30 Children's programmes
16:30 Al Muntalib (children's educational programme)
17:00 Programme on History of Mathematics
17:30 Oliver Twist
18:00 Programme on Education
18:30 Local series
19:00 Local programme
19:30 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Local programmes
22:30 Programme on Ihsan Abdul Qudous

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Louis XI
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine (French)
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Are You Being Served?
21:10 Rag: to Riches
21:30 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "A Stranger Waits" with Suzanne Pleshette

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:45 Just a Minute
11:00 Good Vibrations
11:30 Readings
12:00 News Summary
12:45 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Special Feature
15:00 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Young Sound
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Sports Roundup
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
22:00 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsweek

07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Augustus Carp
07:30 Newsweek 08:00 World News
08:00 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30
08:30 Nature Notebook 08:45 Recording of the Week 09:00 Newsweek 09:30 Six
09:30 24 Hours: World News 10:00 24
10:00 Hours: News Summary 10:30 Why
10:30 Should This Happen to Me? 11:00
11:00 World News 11:30 Reflections 11:45
11:45 Augustus Carp Ex by Himself 11:50
11:50 Anything Goes 12:00 World News
12:00 British Press Review 12:15 Good
12:15 Books 12:30 Through My Window
12:30 24 Hours: News Summary 12:45
12:45 News followed by Six Cities 13:00
13:00 The Vintage Chart Show 14:00 World
14:00 News 14:30 News About Britain 14:45
14:45 Tech Talk 14:50 Album Time 15:00
15:00 World News 15:15 My World 15:45
15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News
16:00 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30
16:30 Anything Goes 17:00 Outlook, opening
17:00 with 5-minute News 17:45 Canney
17:45 Row 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15
18:15 Sportsweek 18:45 Sportsweek contd.
18:45 19:00 World News 19:00 Commentary
19:00 19:15 A Journey Round My People
19:15 19:30 Big Band — The Singers 19:45
19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News
20:00 20:05 Book Choice 20:15 Best on
20:15 Record 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00
21:00 Newsweek 21:30 Multitrack 1: Top 20
21:30 Outlook, opening with 16:00
21:30 22:30 Stock Market Report 22:45 Peo-
22:45 ples' Choice 23:00 World News 23:00
23:00 Twenty-Fours: News Summary 23:30
23:30 Sports International 24:00 News Sum-
24:00 mary followed by Network UK

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1360 & SW 7300, 9565, 11740,
11725 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA
Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline
08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 News 09:10
09:10 Newsline 09:30 Music USA 10:00
10:00 News 10:10 Focus 10:30 Special
10:30 English News & Features 10:50 News
10:50 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Magazine Show
19:30 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special
20:30 English News & Features 21:00 News
21:00 21:10 Newsline 21:30 Music
21:30 USA 22:00 News 22:10 Editorial 22:15
22:15 Music USA 23:00 News 23:10
23:10 World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

* Art exhibition by Mohammad
Boulos and Mounira Al Tounsi at the
Housing Bank Gallery (runs through
April 19).

EXHIBITIONS

* First School Arts Exhibition at
the Vintage Chart Show 14:00 World
News 14:30 News About Britain 14:45
14:45 Tech Talk 14:50 Album Time 15:00
15:00 World News 15:15 My World 15:45
15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News
16:00 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30
16:30 Anything Goes 17:00 Outlook, opening
17:00 with 5-minute News 17:45 Canney
17:45 Row 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15
18:15 Sportsweek 18:45 Sportsweek contd.
18:45 19:00 World News 19:00 Commentary
19:00 19:15 A Journey Round My People
19:15 19:30 Big Band — The Singers 19:45
19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News
20:00 20:05 Book Choice 20:15 Best on
20:15 Record 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00
21:00 Newsweek 21:30 Multitrack 1: Top 20
21:30 Outlook, opening with 16:00
21:30 22:30 Stock Market Report 22:45 Peo-
22:45 ples' Choice 23:00 World News 23:00
23:00 Twenty-Fours: News Summary 23:30
23:30 Sports International 24:00 News Sum-
24:00 mary followed by Network UK

WORKSHOP

* A specialised workshop on medical
research, at University of Jordan Man-
power Development Centre (runs until
April 10).

BAZAAR

* Charitable bazaar, held by Hamzeh
Islamic Cultural Centre for Women at
Ain Karen Society (runs until Monday
April 4).

CHILDREN'S FILM

* "The Camerons" at 4:30 p.m. at the
British Council.

FEATURE FILM

* Hannah and Her Sisters at 7:00 p.m.
at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) information depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS
(Terminal 1)

10:15 Aqaba (RJ)
10:20 Larana (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:30 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
10:40 Dhahran (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:50 Cairo (RJ)
10:55 New York, Vienna (RJ)
10:55 Bangkok (RJ)
10:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
11:00 Vienna (add.) (RJ)
06:55 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

10:30 Sana'a (LH)
10:35 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
13:20 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
20:15 Beirut (ME)
06:30 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS
(Terminal 1)

11:30 Aqaba (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Vienna (add.) (RJ)
12:30 Paris (RJ)
12:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles
(RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

13:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:20 Cairo (RJ)
13:30 Kuwait (RJ)
18:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:55 Baghdad (RJ)
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)
21:15 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fajr
06:15 Sunrise
12:30 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:00 Maghreb
20:20 Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Sunday rates

Local sell/buy rates in Jds
Belgian franc 96 / 97.5
Dutch guilder 179.1 / 181.9
French franc 92.3 / 90.2
Italian lira 77.1 / 77.5
Japanese yen (for 100) 269 / 273.2
Swedish crown 56.5 / 57.5
Swiss franc 244 / 247.8
U.K. sterling pound 628.5 / 639.6
U.S. dollar 332.9 / 337.9
W. German mark 200.9 / 204.5

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

Even though there will be a drop in
temperature, it will remain warm and
dry, with south easterly moderate
winds. In Aqaba, winds will be nor-
therly moderate and calm sea.

AMMAN

Amman 24, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings:
Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 17 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Quesneish 770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 630341
Blood Bank 778303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 62200-3
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 8963907
Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881
Municipal waterworks 771256
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport (08)5330060

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Tayseer Khader 606857
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256
Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751
Dr. Fakher Al Bilbeisi 625778
Feras pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637035
Naironki pharmacy 632672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Vaccines pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 657660

TAXIS

Se'ud taxi 8898434
Badevi taxi 792511
Aqaba taxi 892590
Kayali taxi 786330
Iyad taxi 740317
Mu'in taxi 895364

IRBID

Dr. Munther Al Sheikh 244018
Shamsa pharmacy 275825

ZARQA

Dr. A. Latif Al Sharabi 987725
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19
Radio Jordan 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism 662311
Hotel complaints 666412
Telephone information 661176
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg
Apple (French) 620 / 360
Apple (green) 670 / 400
Banana 330 / 300
Banana (Mikammar) 300 / 240
Beans 300 / 400
Beans (broad) 360 / 200
Cabbage 180 / 120
Carrot 240 / 150
Cauliflower (white) 230 / 150
Cucumbers 250 / 200
Eggplant (large) 280 / 200
Eggplant (small) 280 / 220
Garlic (dry) 120 / 80
Garlic (green) 160 / 100
Lemon 220 / 160
Marrow 280 / 220
Onion (green) 180 / 140
Onion (dry) 220 / 200
Onions (local) 300 / 250
Oranges (Shamsi) 240 / 200
Peas 370 / 320
Pepper (hot) 600 / 600
Pepper (sweet) 350 / 300
Potatoes 130 / 80
Radishes 90 / 50
Spinach 140 / 100
Tomatoes 280 / 220

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RUFAI MEETS GUESTS: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met separately in his office Sunday with the Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the chief Islamic Justice, and Jordan's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

YEMENI MINISTER: North Yemen's Minister of Health Mohammed Kabab Sunday called at the Ma'in spa south of Madaba and was briefed on the various services offered to the visitors. The minister toured the newly built hotel, the area of the swimming pools using mineral water and the clinics.

OFFICIAL REELECTED: The Arab League Council, in its session held Sunday in Tunis, reelected Ministry of Foreign Affairs Legal Department Director, Awn Al Khasawneh to the International Law Commission at the Arab level. The commission is a regional codification body, comprising experts in international law, which aims at strengthening legal cooperation in the Arab World. Khasawneh, in his personal capacity, is also a member of the United Nations International Law Commission and of the sub-Commission on the prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities.

VOLUNTARY CAMP: The Department of Education in Koura district Sunday opened a voluntary camp for youths from five schools in the district. The children will be involved in building walls around schools, at Deir Al-Fa'id, Sammouh, Zimal, Ja'alin, and Al Safa. A total of 640 students are taking part in the 16-day camping event.

SCOUT CAMP: In Qasr district near Karak a scout camp has been set up. A total of 330 scouts and girl guides are taking part in the 11-day camping activity. At Badr district within the Amman governorate 400 scouts are taking part in a camping activity opened Saturday.

IRAQI ENVOY: Minister of Agriculture, Marwan Hmoud discussed with the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassim Hussein Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in agricultural fields. The ambassador handed the minister a message from his Iraqi counterpart dealing with such cooperation.

NEW STAMPS: The general post office Postal Savings Corporation has decided to issue a new set of stamps to commemorate the World Health Day which falls on April 7. The stamps which also commemorate the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 40th anniversary consist of 60 filis and 80 filis denominations.

TESTS FOR TB: The health authorities have completed a health survey covering a number of regions within the Ma'an governorate. The Health Department director in Ma'an said that the survey included X-ray tests for at least 1,000 in Manshieh, Jarba, Athroh, Duhaysh and the workers employed at the glass factory near Ma'an. The survey was to determine the number of people suffering from tuberculosis.

SEMINARS: The Jordanian Sociologists Association (JSA) will organise a series of seminars between April 5 and 11 at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Cultural Centre. The seminars, which will be held under the patronage of Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat, include a ceremony for honouring pioneers in voluntary and social service work.

CHILD ACCIDENTALLY KILLED: A three-year-old child was killed accidentally during an outing with the family near Siagha-Madaba district, according to Al-Dustour Arabic daily. The paper said that the child was hit by a shot from a hand gun fired by a man celebrating the wedding of his son.

GASTROENTEROLOGY: The governors' committee of American College of Gastroenterology has elected Dr. Ziad Sharaia from Jordan as governor for the college in the Middle East area.

MODEL VILLAGE: Work on a model village at Malih in Madaba district has begun. The project is being implemented by a local group of village councils in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund.

MA'AN PROJECTS: Heads of municipal councils in Ma'an district and the directors of their accountability sections held a meeting Sunday to discuss financial and administrative matters pertaining to the common services council in Ma'an area, and means of overcoming obstacles hindering the implementation of projects due to be completed during 1988.

13th Arab health ministers meeting opens in Amman

Arabs seek to boost health services in occupied lands

By Rania Atallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 13th session of the Arab Health Ministers Council opened here Sunday with ministers discussing health conditions in the Arab World, focusing on ways of boosting inter-Arab cooperation and supporting health services in the occupied Arab territories.

During the morning session Dr. Abdulrahman Al Awadi, director of the Executive Committee of the Arab Health Ministers Council, gave an opening speech in which he strongly affirmed the council's support for the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the need to extend further medical support to sustain the uprising in the face of Israeli occupation.

"The council urges concerned international organisations to shoulder their responsibilities and to stand by the Arabs in the occupied territories to enable them to perform their duty of liberating their country," Dr. Awadi said.

He urged these organisations to interfere and stop illegal Israeli practices against the Palestinians to enable them to practice their legitimate human rights.

Also addressing the opening session was Mr. Mahdi Mustafa Al Hadi, the Arab League Assistant Secretary General, who said that the league "follows with

admiration that the council's medical research, development of qualified human sources and its efforts to fight disasters and epidemics to ensure medical security."

The general secretary also hailed the council's efforts of closely following up on "the conditions of our people in Lebanon and Palestine and their confrontation of modern diseases that affect our children and youth at present and in the future."

Tunisian Health Minister Dr. Suad Al Yacoubi Al Wahshi said that in its 12th session in Sudan, the Arab Health Ministers Council "took important decisions, which were another step in concerted Arab efforts to achieve ideal health conditions, considered a pillar for the development of our societies."

Dr. Wahshi said that the executive committee of the council has implemented those decisions and "registered important achievements in many fields."

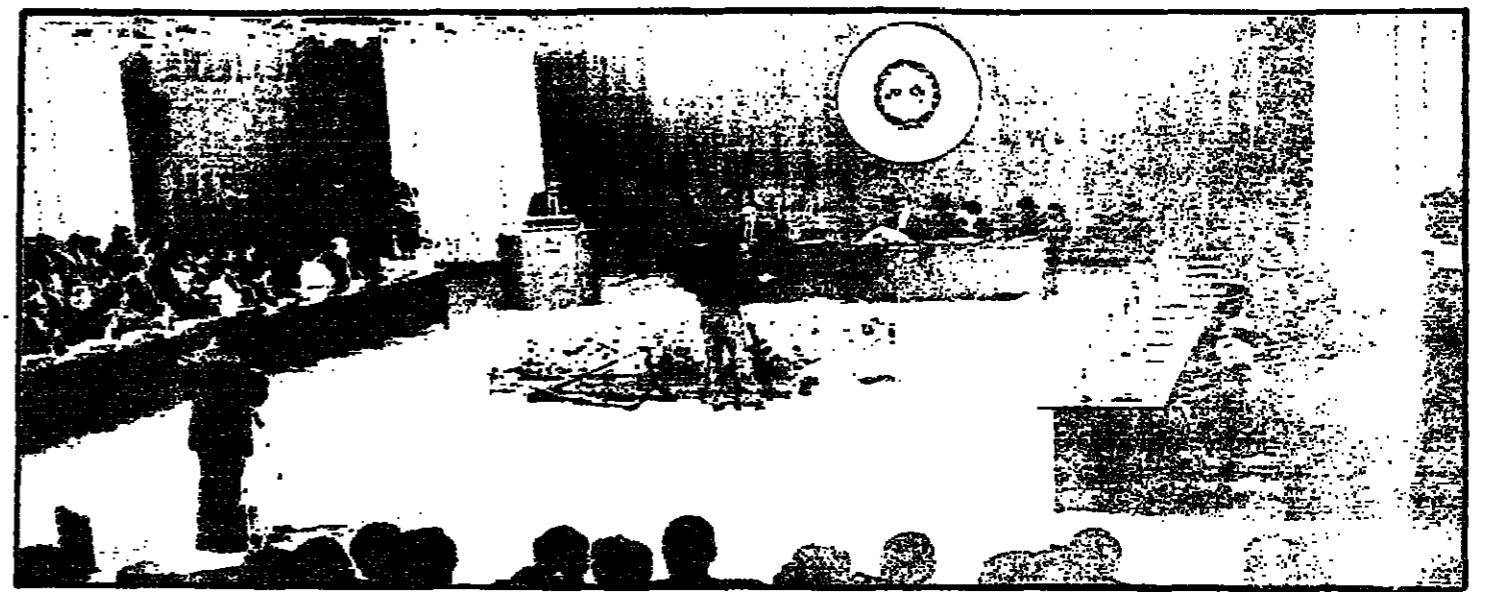
Despite all that, she added,

Ministry seeks to develop traditional crafts, industries

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held at the Ministry of Social Development Sunday to discuss the establishment of an organisation which will be charged with developing traditional crafts and industries.

The meeting discussed cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein

Foundation (NHF), which has had experience in this field, and set up a committee to coordinate work with the NHF, the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), to conduct research and prepare a working paper that would serve as a guideline for the project.



The 13th Arab Health Ministers Council meeting opens in Amman Sunday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

"the challenges that face us are still numerous," especially in view of the sufferings of Palestinians in the occupied territories and the continued war in the Gulf that is draining the capabilities of the Arab Nation.

Jordan's Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, head of the council's 13th session said that although Jordan is optimistic about the success of its efforts in health matters, it has "not for one day forgotten our people in the occupied land."

"With all modesty, we say that

we are working for them here and on both Arab and international levels," Hamzeh said.

Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi, who delivered a speech on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein, said the achievements of the Council of Arab Health Ministers, during its short history, give hope that the council will achieve the aims for which it was created.

In the afternoon session, Palestinian representative to the conference Fathi Arafat, who is also head of the Palestinian Red

Crescent Societies, criticised the council for not inviting the Palestinian delegation to take part in preparatory discussions within the council's executive committee meeting, which took place Friday and Saturday. The committee discussed, among other things, issues relating to the ongoing Palestinian uprising.

The ministers then held a closed meeting in the absence of journalists.

The afternoon session also discussed the report presented by head of the council's executive

committee for the year 1987-1988. The report included a review of scientific and training affairs and blood transportation services, the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and protection against radiation. It also reviewed the question of training Arab doctors and the Arabisation of health education and pharmaceutical matters.

A number of government officials, representatives of international health organisations and other officials attended the conference.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi speaks on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein at the opening of the 13th Arab Health Ministers Council meeting in Amman Sunday



(right) Arab delegates attend the opening ceremony (photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Jordan to use natural gas for power generation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib announced Sunday that Jordan will start using natural gas discovered at Al Rishah gas fields for power generation early next year.

The coming decade is expected to witness a new, major transformation in the development of the Kingdom's mineral resources, especially oil and gas, which would help cut down on the country's fuel bill, Khatib said in an address with which he opened the third Jordanian Geological Conference on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The conference which is being attended by 120 Arab, Jordanian and foreign delegates, has been organised by the Ministry of Energy in cooperation with the Jordanian Geologists Association (JGA).

Khatib's announcement followed a statement published Sunday in the Jordan Times, in which Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Assistant Director General Walid Jaouni confirmed that plans have been made for the procurement and installation of two 30-megawatt gas turbine power generation units at the

Rishah Wells, and work was progressing on a two-stage 310-kilometre long transmission line to link Al Rishah fields with the national grid.

Khatib said geology and mineral wealth play a significant role in Jordan's economy, since the Kingdom's exports of phosphate, potash and fertiliser constitute the backbone of the national industry and account for the largest proportion of the country's exports.

He said that a total of \$2 billion has been channelled into the country's mining industry over the past 10 years because Jordan was becoming more and more dependent on this industry for foreign currency earnings.

The coming years are expected to witness even further development since the world prices of phosphate, potash and fertilisers have improved lately, and this makes the mining industry more useful for the national economy in the future, Khatib added.

"During the last few years, the country witnessed a vast development in technology, employed in the mining industry, and for this reason the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), which takes charge of mining and geological

operations in Jordan, has acquired modern technology and equipment, including computers, to help the Kingdom make a better exploitation of its natural wealth," the minister noted.

The opening session was also addressed by the JGA president, who underlined the importance of geologists' work not only in exploring and helping in the development of minerals, but also in tapping the country's water resources and advising on construction of homes away from areas exposed to earthquakes.

He said geologists help the country maintain a sound policy for the exploitation of its water resources, in view of the expected increase in water consumption and expansion in agricultural projects.

The JGA president also outlined the development and the activities of the association in the Kingdom.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Director General Wasef Azar was the next speaker, stressing the fact that his company was one of the main Jordanian organisations that has close contact with, and benefit from geologists.

The Arab Mining Company (ARMICO) Director General Thabet Al Taber addressed the session, announcing that the pan-Arab company has created a consultancy unit to offer advice to Arab countries in the field of mining, and prospecting for oil.

"ARMICO's services will be of special benefit for North Yemen which has just started tapping its oil and other mineral resources," and Jordan which is prospecting for oil," Taber said.

The delegates will discuss nearly 100 working papers during their three-day conference dealing with oil, rocks, minerals, sedimentary rocks, underground water resources, geological engineering subjects and other relevant topics.

Coinciding with the conference, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has opened a three-day exhibition of rocks and minerals in Jordan. The exhibition was organised in cooperation with the JGA, Yarmouk University, Goethe Institute in Amman and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

On display are various samples of rocks and minerals found in Jordan used in construction, industry, and other fields.

Assad: Ministry seeks to create incentives for community college students to excel

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On the first of November last year, the Ministry of Higher Education adopted the American system of accreditation for community colleges in a law which sets prerequisites for general and special accreditation of the 57 such colleges already established in Jordan.

Since then, there has been a growing debate on the advantage and disadvantage of the law, which offers hope for some community college students of bridging the gap to the university.

In an informal meeting with Jordanian journalists Sunday, Minister of Higher Education, Nasserredine Al Assad discussed the new law and the line of development the ministry envisions for the community colleges in Jordan, by setting higher standards.

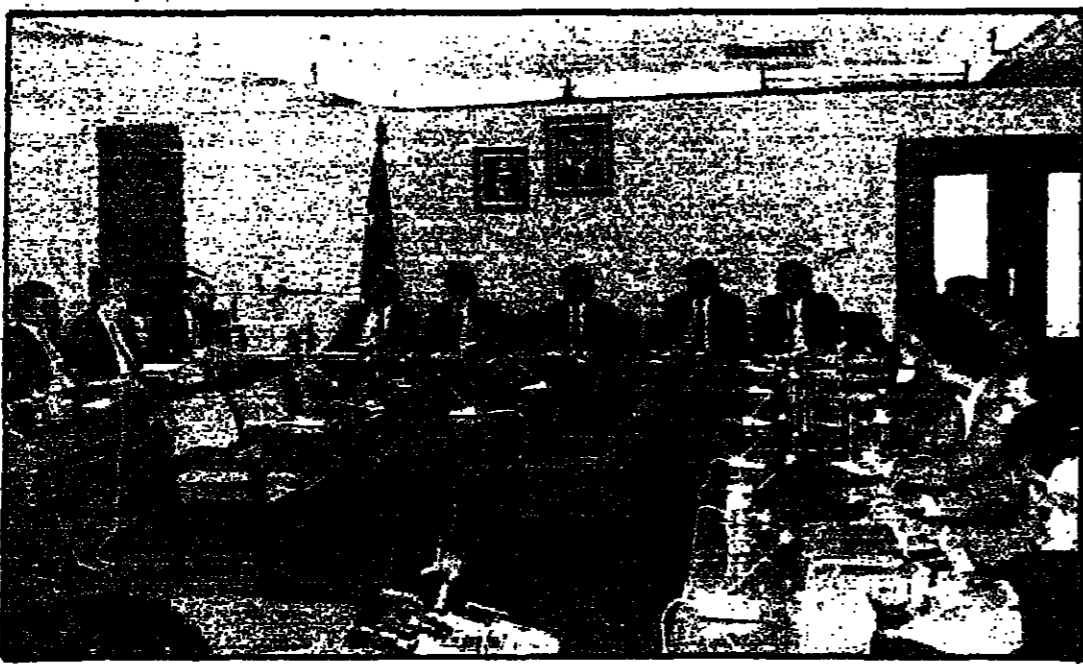
Assad, explained the difference between general and special accreditation as stipulated in the new law. According to Assad, general accreditation deals with four different fields: Administrative management, scientific organisation, buildings and facilities and equipment.

"In deciding what are the minimum requirements in each field we took into account what is realistically possible and how things should really be," Assad added that a "community college has to be generally accredited as an essential preliminary step towards getting a private accreditation."

Private accreditation, according to Assad, is given to each technical and academic specialisation including necessary equipment, books, teachers, and syllabus, "in deciding this we have only asked for the minimum requirements."

The process of accreditation in the United States, is very different from the one adopted in Jordan, and Assad admitted to that difference. "We have only adopted the different names used in the United States, we called these establishments community colleges, we use the word accreditation, but we did not adopt the same concepts behind the words."

What Assad meant was that while in the United States, community colleges are viewed as an option for spending two years



Minister of Higher Education Nasserredine Al Assad holds an informal meeting with Jordanian journalists Sunday (Petra photo)

preparing for university degrees by taking courses which carry credits accepted by universities, in Jordan this opportunity will not be given to our students.

In Jordan, very few people will be able to pass through a community college to a Jordanian university except those who excel in their studies. Even then, not many would be admitted, because credits acquired in a college will not transfer to a university education.

Some critics of the law maintain that there should be complete adaptation of American system, their argument is that many students who were not admitted to a Jordanian university and were unable to afford education outside Jordan, could possibly take their two years of college in Jordan, and then keep those credits in reserve until they could afford to complete their four years outside Jordan.

Another argument is, if a student could not afford four years of study abroad, he or she might be able to afford two years, that is, if those two years of study at a Jordanian college could be accredited towards a university degree.

Others criticise the law, which calls for the teaching staff to be composed of at least a third who have Masters or Doctorate degrees, which they felt would place those carrying a Bachelors degree

at a disadvantage. In many cases those who are already teaching at community colleges would lose their jobs.

Assad maintained that "this is not true." Giving three reasons he explained that this law allows for two thirds of the teaching staff to be carriers of a Bachelors degree, and that the law does not stop the college from employing them in administrative jobs. He also stressed that "the Ministry of Education badly needs teachers carrying Bachelors degrees to teach in schools, and would be willing to absorb all those who need a job."

He said the law stipulates that the dean of the community college should carry a Doctorate degree, and that there has been criticism of this move too. He said it is very important that the "dean of a higher education institute be carrying a very high degree."

Criticism was also made over an article in the law which demands that a community college be built over a minimum land area of 25 dunums. Assad said, those who are criticising this article did not read it in full. He explained that there are allowances made for exceptions in the cases of colleges already established.

All these changes were called

for in a five-year period, allowing the colleges ample time to work out their situation in such a way to gain accreditation, Assad said.

Why give accreditation if it does not prepare students for university education; if places economic pressure on private colleges which were originally established for economic gains and if it opens the door for colleges to ask for higher fees?

According to Assad, the reasons behind the accreditation are many and very important. He explained that if Jordan hopes to adopt the progressive education theories, it has to take into account that there are different levels of education, one leading into the other, and that there should be incentives for students to try and excel to cross these stages.

He added, that there is a market need of professional technicians who would receive their education at a community college, but that so far the standard of graduates of community colleges are "much below the required standard."

Assad maintained that the "very narrow bridge which will open between accredited community colleges and universities was not created to open more doors into university, but to create incentive for students to excel."

Al Kutba guides promote understanding of antiquities

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new series of brightly coloured pocket guides to Jordan's antiquities sites has begun to appear in local bookstores. The guides, published by Al Kutba, feature text and photographs by Rami Khouri, and are illustrated with drawings, site plans, and maps.

The series of some 14 guides will cover Amman, Petra, Karak and Shobak castles, Ajloun, Umm Qais, Umm Al Jimal, Pella, Madaba, the King's Highway, Salt, the Jordan Valley, Islamic, Roman and Nabataean monuments, and Wadi Rum.

Guides to Jerash, Aqaba, and the desert castles are now available.

Single copies of all guides are being distributed free to businesses and institutions that provide travel information in Jordan and abroad, to encourage more tourists to visit Jordan and to stay longer in the country.

Copies will also be provided to the Department of Antiquities and the Tourism Authority, to schools and libraries, and to Middle East and archaeology departments abroad. Arabic-language versions of most booklets will be available starting in May.

In addition to publishing the guides, in the next two years Al Kutba will be producing four publications to help children learn about their heritage while

having fun. One of these will be a colouring book for ages 5-8.

Another will be DIG CAT, an illustrated story about the adventures of an Ammanite feline that gets taken to Jerash by a group of archaeologists.

Other projects may include site guides for children that highlight the roles of ancient Arab peoples and leaders, according to Ellen Kettaneh Khouri Executive Manager of Al Kutba.

The Private Enterprise Technical Resources Assistance (PETRA) project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is contributing towards the cost of the publications.

This publishing venture is part of a two-year project under which Al Kutba also serves as consultant to the Department of Antiquities and the Tourism Authority.

Al Kutba provides technical assistance to the Department of Antiquities and the Tourism Authority to develop a data base which will be used to produce and distribute informational materials about antiquities and tourism facilities, designed to be useful to students of archaeology, travel industry personnel, tourists, Jordanian adults, university students and young children.

The data base will include mailing lists and a distribution system,

and will be used by specialists in the department, the authority and the private sector who are responsible for marketing, promotion and press relations.

All the information on Jordanian sites and facilities will also be made available for free to the travel industry in Jordan and abroad, in the form of site sheets and mailing lists, which would be used to promote Jordan's rich archaeological heritage and tourism attractions.

Should a group of Britons wish to trace the steps of Lawrence of Arabia during a 10-day visit in May, for example, the Tourism Authority or a private travel agent can recommend an itinerary complete with information about sites, transportation, lodg-

ing, food, weather, and costs.

Should a request be received from a Canadian mountain-climbing group who want to visit for 5 days in March, the authority or travel agents would be able to use the data base to tell the group what places are suitable for climbing, what weather to expect, what facilities for food, lodging, transportation, and equipment are available, and approximate costs of the visit.

Al Kutba is working with personnel within the department, the authority to design the data base and get it operational.

At the end of the consultancy, internal personnel will take over management of the data base.

The project is being funded by the PETRA project of USAID.

Jerash Festival administration offices moved to new premises

Jerash Festival administration announces that its offices have been moved to a new chancery, located in Shmeisani, behind the Arab Bank, beside the Jordan Spa and Mineral Resources (Ma'in Spa) Company. The new telephone number is 675199 and the P.O. Box is 910582, Amman.

Jordan Times

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Raw arrogance

IN yet another demonstration of raw arrogance and political insensitivity, 31 U.S. senators have called on their government to punish Saudi Arabia for daring to purchase and deploy Chinese made CSS-2 intermediate-range ballistic missiles, by suspending American arms sales to Riyadh. One would be shocked to observe such an exercise of naked blackmail, had this been the first time Washington attempted arm twisting against an ostensibly friendly Arab country. In fact, this must be the umpteenth time the U.S. seeks to dictate to Saudi Arabia what to do and what not to do, and to influence its policies by remote control. Obviously, Washington is misreading Riyadh's friendliness, and is confusing it with the acceptance of U.S. tutelage, forgetting that Saudi Arabia and the Arab World have come of political age and are in no mood to tolerate any interference in the exercise of their legitimate sovereign rights and duties.

Perhaps the bipartisan 31 senators are seeking desperately to neutralise their once-in-a-lifetime criticism of Israel in the message that they had sent last month to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in support of his peace plan for the Arab-Israeli conflict. Obviously fearing a pro-Israeli backlash and remembering the fate of ex-senator Charles Percy, they precipitously stampeded to prove their loyalty and devotion to Israel and Israeli perspectives, even on legitimate defence needs of countries of such importance as Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait.

But the lesson to Saudi Arabia is a lesson to all of us in the Arab World who still maintain friendly relations with Washington and pin hopes on its integrity and reliability. We should draw the necessary conclusions from this insulting American misbehaviour, and serve notice on Washington, and on any other capital, for that matter, that we are not duty bound to reveal our arms negotiations to any powers, much less to seek their blessings. The Arab World happens to be threatened by several countries in our midst, including Israel in the west and Iran in the east. We refuse to be left vulnerable and hostage to the designs and manipulations of the enemies of the Arab World. We certainly view the strength of Saudi Arabia as an added strength to the overall Arab military might, which is, unfortunately, the only might that the world now comprehends and responds to. And come to think of it, why does no U.S. senator bother to express his fears and anxieties about the Israeli deployment of nuclear weapons and the development of the Jericho intermediate ballistic missile which is capable of reaching the heart of the Arab World? Is this the sense of fairness that the U.S. would like us to believe in?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Shamir's clear reply

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has renewed his rejection of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's proposals and said Israel rejects any settlement for the West Bank in any peace talks with the Arabs. This was a clear reply to any questions which Shultz might ask during his meeting with Shamir Sunday evening. Shamir is determined not to change his position and he seems determined to adhere to his belief that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are part of Israel. For this reason we cannot but wonder about Shultz's real mission in the Middle East since the U.S. secretary realises beforehand the Israeli and the Arab positions and as long as the U.S. administration does not intend to take any measures to force Israel to change its position. There is no doubt that Shultz is fully aware of the Arab position and the Arab Nation's demand for a comprehensive solution that can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland. He also realises that the Arabs want peace through an international conference in which all concerned parties, including the PLO should take part; and that the Arabs are willing to swap peace for land. Why then does Shultz continue his mission and why does not he announce Washington's clear position with regard to Israel's rejectionist policies? Why doesn't Shultz take a realistic step and allow the U.N.-sponsored international conference be convened to establish a genuine and lasting peaceful settlement in the Middle East?

Al Dustour: Shamir says no

ON the eve of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's arrival in Israel, Yitzhak Shamir announced his government's rejection of the American proposals, specially the idea of exchanging land for peace. Shamir renewed his rejection of an international conference in which all concerned parties and the PLO can participate in the peace-making process. Shamir's rejection of the peace bid was backed by criminal actions by his troops in the occupied Arab territories and more killing of Arab youths. It seems that the more Shultz tries to appease Shamir and make him accept the U.S. proposals, the more adamant Shamir becomes. This extremist position on the part of the Israeli prime minister is coupled by more brutal actions by Israeli troops against the Palestinian people. Indeed, the Israelis would not have gone thus far in their atrocities and their disregard of the international community had they not been encouraged in their actions through statements by American officials. We watch the events and we will see what will come out of the Shultz's mission which is bound to fail in view of Israel's present position and intransigence.

Sawt Al Shaab: Prince calls for unity

PRINCE Hassan spoke in an interview with the Iraqi news agency, pointing out that Iran and Israel were in collusion against the Arab Nation, launching simultaneous aggression on Arab countries. He said that Iran and Israel are in agreement over their hatred of the Arab Nation and are both trying to abort any move on the part of the Arabs to build their intrinsic force and regain their usurped rights. It seems clear for the Arabs that they are confronted by a renewed Iranian offensive at a time when Israel escalates its aggression on the Palestinian people. On the eastern flank, Iraq has proved that it has the upper hand and is capable of dealing with any Iranian aggression, and on the western flank the Palestinian youths are proving that the Palestinian determination to maintain the struggle for freedom will not falter. Prince Hassan called for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Gulf conflict and for the imposition of sanctions on Iran for its refusal to abide by these resolutions. But, as the Prince said, the most important step should be a unified Arab decision and concerted action in the face of both challenges and dangers.

A thorny road ahead

By Waleed Sadi

as an added condition for dealing with the Palestinian Organisation. In this connection, there were always persistent speculations that Washington and Tel Aviv would ask for ever more new conditions and seek further amplifications over and above the string of existing conditions requested of the PLO as additional sine qua non for recognising and dealing with the PLO. Perhaps such speculations have kept the PLO thus far from calling the U.S. and Israeli bluffs on this score.

To be sure, there were repeated attempts in the past to break the deadlock and remove the logjam caused by the absence of the PLO from the list of relevant interlocutors in any viable peace process in the region. In 1979, for example, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young lost his post at the United Nations on account of his "unauthorised" meeting with the PLO representative to the United Nations in New York. And in the recent past, banking on his solid credentials with the Israelis as well as with the Jewish community in the U.S., Shultz moved ever closer to removing the barriers that separate his government from the PLO by meeting on American soil with two prominent PLO supporters namely, journalist Hana Siniara and lawyer Fayed Abu Rahmeh. Ostensibly that earlier meeting was a prelude to his last week's meeting with the "real thing" personified in professors Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughod. Where this process may lead is anybody's guess, although it appears that Shultz's enunciations on the issue of the PLO on the eve of his on-going visit to the capitals of the Middle East have dashed all hopes of ever tearing down all remaining barriers between the U.S. and the Palestinian organisation.

All these developments would lead one to pose the following question: How deep and substantive are the gaps and differences between the two sides on the declared conditions and terms pertaining to recognising and dealing with the PLO? With regard to Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO is already on record as having accepted the two resolutions provided they are not suffixed with the adverb "only." Wanting more in terms of resolutions is not synonymous with rejecting some. Seeking most of the pie is not incongruous with accepting some of the portions per se. Besides I have yet to note any party concerned with the Palestinian case or the Arab-Israeli conflict that has called for the acceptance and implementation of resolutions 242 and 338 only. In this case, there is no rule or construction of law which would preclude affecting addendums to these resolutions as the negotia-

tions on the basis of 242 and 338 gain momentum. In short, the PLO's call for the application of additional U.N. resolutions does not in itself negate the acceptance and applicability of resolutions 242 and 338.

As for the call on the PLO to recognise Israel, the answer to that request can be found pure and simple in the PLO's counter offer, which called for the mutual and reciprocal recognition by Israel and the PLO. Surely an acceptable formulation can be articulated to reflect this exchange of recognition. Man's intellect is clearly capable of achieving such a modest feat. Besides, by accepting to participate at the projected international peace conference, the PLO has signalled its implied recognition of Israel. Thus in reality this issue of recognition does not pose a real problem especially in view of recent Israeli assurances that they do not attach great importance to any PLO pronouncements on the recognition of Israel.

This leaves us with the issue of terrorism as the last and final stipulation demanded of the PLO. Again this subject is not as real as Washington makes it to be. The PLO is on record as being against terrorism per se and rebuts the accusations levelled against it as a terrorist organisation by pointing out that it is the victim of Israeli state-sponsored terrorism and that it is merely engaged in an armed struggle for liberation. Besides Israeli hands are not exactly white clean on the issue of terrorism. It would take more than formal pronouncements against terrorism to combat and eradicate this evil. Surely an honourable and durable peace agreement to settle the Palestinian case and the Arab-Israeli conflict would be the real panacea to the problem of terrorism in our region of the world.

Should then the PLO call Washington and Tel Aviv's bluff by testing their allegation that if only the PLO would say this or that in order for it to be accepted as a partner in the peace process whether it is Shultz's la carte or otherwise? It is a risky business to advise the PLO to take their chances just to score a propaganda point or two. But the whole thorny road towards peace in the Middle East is a risky exercise and full of mines and booby traps. Within Israel there are already faint voices calling for mutual and reciprocal recognition between their country and the PLO and they await encouragement and support. The challenge is fraught with danger and any decision to that effect is obviously a heavy one. But taking even a calculated risk in that direction would necessitate a verdict by the Palestine National Council.

Speaking for the Palestinians

By Walter Ruby

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

NEW YORK — A Palestinian-American professor who took part in the precedent-shattering meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz last month emerged believing that Shultz will attempt on his coming Middle East mission to find a solution to the question of Palestinian representation to a Middle East peace conference that will be acceptable to the PLO.

In a telephone interview with The Jerusalem Post, Ibrahim Abu Lughod, a member of the Palestine National Council who met Shultz together with fellow PNC member Prof. Edward Said, said that Shultz made it clear that he is committed to finding a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that would include a resolution for Palestinians living in the Diaspora as well as for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. The secretary obviously clearly understands that there must be "credible Palestinian representatives" if the peace process is to progress.

Abu Lughod has the impression that if the U.S. and Israel are forthcoming, the PLO might be willing to compromise on its present insistence that the Palestinians be represented at the conference by a PLO delegation, as opposed to a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

Abu Lughod, who was born in Jaffa in 1929 and is today chairman of the political science department at Northwestern University near Chicago, exhibited an intriguing mix of militancy and open-mindedness during the interview. He spoke of the right of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples to co-exist in peace and equality, but refused to say explicitly that the solution must lie in a two state solution as opposed to a joint democratic, secular state.

Abu Lughod defended the PLO's refusal to forgo the use of armed struggle against Israel, and insisted that Palestinians should retain the "symbolic right" to return to pre-1967 Israel even if a West Bank state is created.

The main point, he stressed, is not to set final terms now, but for Israelis and Palestinians to sit down together around a table as equals and hammer out an agreement.

Abu Lughod spoke of the Israelis as "colonisers" of the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, and said that the uprising must continue in order to convince the majority of Israelis that the high cost of continuing the occupation overrides the tangible rewards from exploiting a subject people.

The agreement he envisaged would have conditions accepted by all parties to the agreement. But if the West Bank and Gaza got rid of Israeli occupation by violent struggle, "there would be no conditions, and Israel would have reason to worry that the militant population would continue its efforts."

Why had the PLO sabotaged Shultz's efforts to meet Palestinians in Jerusalem, yet consented to Abu Lughod's and Said's meeting with him?

He responded, "A signal has been sent to Shultz that he must deal with the Palestinian people as one national unit. The historical American insistence on dealing with the West Bank and Gaza as separate units is simply false and cannot work. There is one Palestinian people with one representative."

"We have no objection to Shultz meeting with people from the West Bank and Gaza — but not exclusively. The people he wanted to meet were invited by him directly, without consultations with the rest of the Palestinian community."

On the other hand, Abu Lughod said, he and Said are members of the PNC, "so in an important sense we were selected by the Palestinian community. It is well known that we work very closely with Chairman Arafat, and support his political programme. We speak for the national consensus of the Palestinian community."

"I am from Jaffa. My right to return has been internationally guaranteed. I can't carry it out, but I want it to be known that I possess that right. If you don't give it to me, I will fight you. If you do give it to me, I may just go on doing the same thing I have been doing for the last 40 years. But it is my right; my home and my land. I didn't sell it to the Israeli government."

"Our meeting with Shultz signifies that there is a Palestinian community in the diaspora, whose problems must be addressed in any kind of peace initiative. The question of Palestine includes Palestine itself, the Palestinians within Palestine and the Palestinians outside of Palestine."

Abu Lughod said he told Shultz that his next step should be to meet with Palestinians in the Arab World. Only after that would he be able to meet with a Palestinian delegation in the occupied territories.

Terming the Washington meeting with the secretary of state "a positive step in a number of ways," Abu Lughod reiterated, "Shultz is willing to accept what he calls credible representatives of the Palestinians. The interpretation of credible representatives remains open. Shultz did not foreclose it."

It could mean that Arafat will designate five people who support the PLO, but are not directly PLO. We don't yet know. But Shultz gave us the signal he understands that any peace agreement signed by unrepresentative people would not stick. He is interested in an outcome that will be honoured... and is aware that there is only one agency that claims to represent the whole Palestinian people.



Ibrahim Abu Lughod

But what about the PLO's recent insistence that it will not countenance a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation?

Abu Lughod responded, "I think that is a correct position, but it is a position the PNC also could modify. If Arafat comes to believe that a joint delegation is an essential part of the peace-making process which would entail an end to the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza... he could get approval for it."

"It has been our historic position that if you are going to negotiate with anybody, you have to negotiate with the representatives of the Palestinian people. But that historic position was previously modified in the context of a Jordanian-Palestinian

...that we have a right to an independent state within Palestine, not in Jordan or Lebanon; that we are represented by the PLO... and that we have the right to return."

On the last point, he explained, "I am from Jaffa. My right to return has been internationally guaranteed. I can't carry it out, but I want it to be known that I possess that right. If you don't give it to me, I will fight you. If you do give it to me, I may just go on doing the same thing I have been doing for the last 40 years. But it is my right; my home and my land. I didn't sell it to the Israeli government."

"In the context of peace, all of this can be discussed rationally. Let us work out a practical programme, and find who really wants to go back to Jaffa and Haifa."

Abu Lughod suggested that Israeli fears of being deluged by millions of Palestinians wishing to return are highly exaggerated.

"Many of these people have no idea what Jaffa is. For me, it is a real memory... But for my children, except for one who has visited Jaffa as an outsider, it means nothing. It is part of our heritage, but it means nothing in practical terms. For each million Palestinians who come from Jaffa, Haifa and so forth, maybe you'll have 1,000 who will want to go back."

So, he said, the Israeli fear of a mass return is "paranoic and totally unfounded. But symbolically, the right to return is of crucial importance to the Palestinians."

He noted that his brother's children were all born in Kuwait, but claim to have been born in Jaffa. "That is a fiction, but it gives them a symbolic home and a past. And the fact is, they cannot stay in Kuwait. When my brother retires, they will be kicked out within a week. Where are they going to go?"

The solution, Abu Lughod said, is that his brother's children "should be able to go anywhere in Palestine. But they are not going to live with alien people. If there is a Palestinian state along side Israel, are they going to live in Tel Aviv? No, they will want to live among their people."

But will not the Palestinian insistence on the right to return to Jaffa frighten off Israeli liberals who might be willing to countenance a West Bank and Gaza Palestinian state?

He replied, "We haven't yet begun the process of discussion, because we are still engaged in the dynamic of conflict. If you can't accept the Palestinian right to self-determination in all of its parts, you cannot begin the process of discussion."

Asked if he was insisting upon keeping open the option of a democratic, secular state as a replacement for Israel, Abu Lughod replied, "I would like to have any option that comes out of free and equal discussion. Peace is made by antagonists. They can fight it out in a peaceful manner and reach an agreement that is practical and conducive to the survival of both people."

So isn't Abu Lughod's position the flip side of Prime Minister Shamir's formulation that everything is negotiable in peace discussions?

"No, because Shamir refuses to

Palestinians struggle in different ways

In this first of three articles Lamis K. Andoni explores the relationship between Palestinians in Israel and in the occupied territories, and traces the evolution of Land Day.

Here on your breasts, we persist like a wall
In your throats, a silver of glass, a cactus thorn
In your eyes a tempest of fire
But our hearts blaze with fire
If we are thirsty, we shall wring the stones
We shall eat dirt if we are hungry
But we shall never leave
And we shall never begrudge our blood
Here, is our future.

Tawfiq Zayad, 1965

(The poet is mayor of Nazareth and represents Rakah, the Israeli Communist Party in the Knesset).

THE COMMITMENT expressed by both the Israeli Arabs of 1948 and the Palestinians in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to commemorate Land Day underscored the unity of the Palestinian people's national goal of preserving the Arab identity of their land. Yet, as the events on the 12th anniversary of Land Day last Wednesday clearly indicated, this unity of the national goal between the Israeli Arabs and the Palestinians inside the occupied territories of 1967 contrast with the different forms of struggle both sides have opted for, or most precisely have been forced to resort to achieve their objectives.

For while the Israeli Arabs express their continuing commitment to their land through peaceful rallies and general strikes, the Palestinians in the occupied territories continue hurling stones at the Israeli soldiers defying Israeli army's brutality to quell their 4-month-old popular uprising.

The Jerusalem Post's Arab affairs editor Yihuda Litani did not miss "this contrast." In a front page news analysis published in the newspaper on March 31, Litani notes that "while self-restraint by Israeli Arab activists made (Land Day) a peaceful one in Israel, the territories witnessed one of its most violent days since the uprising began last December."

Although he did not elaborate on the different Israeli reactions to both sides' activities, Litani touched upon the truth of the situation in his conclusion that "the Israeli Arabs" had to maintain "a very delicate balance," something that the Palestinians in the occupied territories do not even have to calculate for.

In fact this "contrast," noted by Litani and other observers, find its roots in the historical development and evolution of the political movement and identity of "the Palestinians of 1948" as they are referred to in the Arab World.

This "self-restraint," which was emphasised by Israeli Arab leaders in press interviews and speeches throughout Land Day, largely reflects the main features of the Arab political movement in "Israel proper" and how it differs from the Palestinian national movement in the occupied territories and abroad.

Unlike the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, the establishment of the state of Israel in Palestine was internationally recognised. Thus the 160,000 Palestinians who remained in Palestine had no choice but to become citizens of the new state.

Since then and with the exception of a minority of those who joined Zionist parties "the Israeli Arabs" have tried to strike a delicate balance between their Israeli citizenship and their adherence to their Arab identity and heritage.

In contrast the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip did not have to face such a dilemma since Israel treated them from the beginning as "Arabs under occupation" regardless of the Israeli belief that the territories were part of "Eretz Israel."

From the beginning the relationship was that between an occupying force and the indigenous people.

That is not to say that "the Israeli Arabs" were assimilated or that they enjoy equal status in the state of Israel which, treats them as "second class citizens."

According to a study published by the Amman-based Dar Al Jilil Research Centre for Palestinian Studies the Arab population in Israel has quadrupled since 1948 while their ownership of land has been reduced 16 times. Consequently despite the fact that they constitute 17 per cent of the population, the Arabs now own only 4-5 per cent of the land.

Laws and measures to ensure that the Arabs remain second class citizens are also manifested in Israeli-enforced division of labour and the state's negligence to develop Arab areas. According to the same study paid labourers constitute 77 per cent of the Arab working force, while the budget allocated to Arab-run municipalities did not exceed three per cent of the total funds allocated for all local councils in the fiscal year 1986-1987.

This official discrimination has clearly influenced the priority of the Israeli Arab demands and objectives as they were channelled and focused from the beginning on "achieving equality" with the Jewish citizens of Israel.

Consequently while the political movement of the Arab Israelis was predominantly a civil rights movement, the Palestinians in the occupied territories were confronted with the challenge of a national liberation struggle from the very outset of the occupation.

(Continued on page 5)

Egypt optimistic over Arab Gulf return to arms venture

ABU DHABI (R) — Egypt's defence industries chief says he is optimistic Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will return to a joint military production venture they quit nine years ago.

Lieutenant General Ibrahim Al Orabi told reporters Saturday night such a return would contribute to Arab self-armament.

The three Arab Gulf states walked out of the Cairo-based Arab Authority for Military Production in 1979 in protest against Egypt's treaty with Israel.

The three states, which formed the authority with Egypt in 1975, were among 18 Arab countries to cut diplomatic ties with Cairo. Most of them ended the boycott last year.

"Contacts are under way to revive the authority," Orabi said. "I am optimistic they will return soon because it is their historic responsibility and can play a major role in Arab armament."

Orabi is in the UAE, along with two other senior Egyptian military officials, to prepare for Cairo's second Gulf arms show opening here Monday.

"There is no country that can achieve self-sufficiency in arms," he said when asked whether Arab states can realise that goal.

"But we can achieve much in self-armament and even build a jetfighter if there are funds and more importantly... the (political) will."

Kuwait hosted the first Egyptian Gulf arms show in December and Orabi said he was ready to

hold exhibitions in any Arab country.

"But what is more important (than the shows) is that Arab military officers should come and visit our factories to see for themselves that the arms are our own production and not assembled (foreign weapons) as some assume," he said.

Egypt, the only major Arab arms producer, has about 29 weapons production companies with an output of nearly \$1.5 billion worth of military hardware per year, according to Egyptian sources.

Its arms sales totalled \$162 million in 1987 and last month it struck deals with two Arab states worth \$50 million, Orabi told reporters.

"Negotiations are underway for similar deals with other Arab states," he said, but did not elaborate.

Weapons on display during the three-day show will range from ammunition, radar systems and rocket launchers to artillery, missiles and armoured vehicles.

The missiles include the Saqr (eagle) generation, including the Saqr 10 with a range of 11 kilometres and the Saqr 30 with a range of 33 kilometres.

A prominent item on display is the Fahd armoured vehicle equipped with two heavy machineguns and capable of accommodating 13 soldiers.

Egypt has built around 300 Fahds per year since production began in 1984, according to Egyptian sources.

Dukakis rules out talks with PLO

OSHKOSH, Wisconsin (Agencies) — Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis called Saturday for Palestinians to play a role in the Middle East peace process but ruled out talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Negotiations with the Palestinian people are possible. Negotiations with 'terrorists' are not," the Massachusetts governor said in a speech at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh. Aides said it was a restatement of his Middle East policy.

The speech was seen as an appeal for the large bloc of Jewish voters in New York state, which holds presidential primary votes April 19.

Dukakis said at a news conference the establishment of a Palestinian homeland was subject to negotiation. He said Palestine was "a special case" different from countries like Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Poland and South Africa where he supports the rights of citizens to govern themselves.

"Over time, the Palestinian people should have the right to shape their destiny, but how they do, and under what circumstances they do it, is subject to negotiations," he said.

Dukakis left Wisconsin after the speech to travel to Denver for a series of appearances in Colorado, which holds its presidential caucuses Monday.

Dukakis's remarks appeared designed to point to sharp distinctions between himself and his chief campaign rival, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who has

sympathised with the PLO.

Criticism of Arabs

In his speech, Dukakis reiterated his strong support for Israel and was sharply critical of Arab leaders for what he said was their refusal to choose "reconciliation over conflict."

With the speech, Dukakis was also trying to make certain that rival presidential hopeful Albert Gore does not appear more committed to Israel than he does — a key issue with Jewish voters who may make up a quarter of the New York electorate.

Gore has lately emphasised his Middle East positions, criticising both Dukakis and Jackson for their stands. Aides denied the speech was designed to respond to Gore but admitted it should blunt the controversy about Gore's comments.

In his foreign policy speech, Dukakis touched on a range of issues, but the biggest chunk dealt with the Middle East.

Dukakis called for a continuation of the Camp David peace process, which he said was the "unfulfilled" vision of late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

"Why? Because few Arab leaders have had the courage to see the Middle East as Sadat saw it. Few Arab leaders have had the wisdom to choose reconciliation over conflict, to choose hope instead of hate; to prepare for the future rather than relive the wars of the past," he said.

Dukakis made abundantly

clear his "commitment" to Israel.

After support for Israel, Dukakis laid down three other tenets of his Middle East policy:

— The need for direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

— A continuation of the Camp David understandings on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. "That framework recognises the right of the people of the territories to shape their own destiny in a way that is consistent with Israel's right to exist within safe and security and recognised borders," he said.

— Stopping the Soviet Union and China from continuing to supply arms into the Middle East, particularly China's sale of medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia.

"As long as those policies continue, neither China nor the Soviet Union can play a constructive role in the search for a Middle East peace," Dukakis said.

Vassiliou 'satisfied' with talks in London

NICOSIA (AP) — President George Vassiliou returned from London Sunday saying he was "completely satisfied" with his talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the future of his war-divided island.

"Mrs. Thatcher has assured me the British government is not even considering the possibility of recognising the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the Turkish-occupied part of the island," he declared in London shortly before his departure.

"I am completely satisfied with our meeting, the talks went better than expected," he said on arrival here.

Israel, China said to have signed secret weapons agreement

LONDON (Agencies) — Israel has signed a secret deal to supply advanced missile warheads to China after sending an arms delegation to Peking on false Philippine passports, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper reported.

Israel and China do not have diplomatic relations but are widely believed to have forged clandestine military links since 1980.

The newspaper said there were also signs Israel has been helping China to develop its own multi-role combat fighter, using technology derived from the cancelled U.S.-backed Lavi warplane.

In a front-page report, the Sunday Times said Israel clinched a covert arms deal with China by sending a team of specialists from government-owned Israel Military Industries (IMI) to Peking last November.

It said every aspect of the mission was supervised by Reuven Merhav, Israel's consul-general in Hong Kong. The newspaper identified him as a former member of the Israeli Mossad spy agency.

The alleged agreement called for supplying China with technology for advanced trajectory-corrected missiles of unspecified designation, laser-guided armour-piercing warheads and shells for 155-mm, 152-mm, 130-mm and 122-mm calibre heavy artillery.

According to the report, one of the signatories was K.B. Blumenthal. The newspaper said this was an alias used by former Israeli navy commander Benny

the deal is "totally unacceptable."

"If Israel wants our technology and know-how it must not sell it," Beaumont-Dark said.

"That is why we must immediately freeze all technology and information exchanges with Israel, certainly until they explain themselves and stop this practice."

"We cannot go on sharing things with people who want to sell it to a potential adversary for mercenary reasons, or with people we cannot trust. Israel is in danger of falling into that category."

The Sunday Times said that while Israel still officially denies its arms ties with China, "Jane's Defence Weekly," the authoritative military affairs magazine, estimates the trade is already worth as much as \$3 billion."

It said China wanted to keep secret its military links with Israel "for fear of harming its position in the Middle East."

It said Israel sought secrecy because a missile deal with China would antagonise the United States which has already voiced concern over China's sale of Silk-worm missiles to Iran.

The newspaper reported the Israel-China deal was transacted through a Liberian-registered company called Dubia.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin dismissed as nonsense the Sunday Times report.

Asked during a tour of the occupied Gaza Strip about the report, Rabin said: "The report that was published saying we are helping China to develop ground-to-ground missiles is simply nonsense."

Middle East news

Third alleged Libyan defection in 9 days

CAIRO (AP) — A Libyan army officer said Saturday he defected to an organisation opposed to Muammar Qadhafi, the third such claim among the military in nine days. In a statement distributed to news agencies, Lieutenant-Colonel Abdallah Ahmad Khaled Al Sheikhly claimed that he joined the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL), "the honourable force struggling to overthrow Qadhafi's bloody rule." There was no way to verify the claim which, if true, would be the third in nine days. Previous claims were also statements distributed by the NFSL to news agencies, but none mentioned where the defectors were. The NFSL, with headquarters in Cairo, is believed to be the largest Libyan group of exiles actively opposing Qadhafi. The second statement, on March 30, was signed by a higher-ranking officer, Colonel Saleh Mohamad. He said he was joining the NFSL. Qadhafi's rank, the highest attainable in the Libyan armed forces, five days earlier, a statement claimed the chief of Libya's forces in Chad, Colonel Khalifah Abu Al Kassem Hafar had defected to the NFSL. The statement did not indicate his whereabouts.

Terry Waite reportedly shown on video

LONDON (AP) — Terry Waite, the Anglican envoy missing in Lebanon, has been filmed on video by his captors, the Sunday Express reported. It said without elaboration that the Dutch intelligence service has a report about the film. The weekly, citing an unidentified Lebanese businessman, said the video shows Waite sitting on a stool in an unfurnished room staring into the camera but not speaking. A sound track is claimed to carry excerpts of telephone conversations made by him from his Beirut hotel shortly before he was last publicly seen Jan. 20, 1987, while on his fifth

mission to negotiate the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon. No group has claimed responsibility for abducting Waite, the personal envoy of Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie.

Morocco denies torture charges

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan Justice Ministry has denied allegations by two human rights groups that seven leftist prisoners convicted of plotting against the monarchy were tortured. A ministry statement, carried by the national news agency MAP, said: "The ministry categorically states that these allegations are groundless and untrue." The Association of Human Rights and the League for the Defence of Human Rights, two Moroccan-based groups, said Thursday the seven were subjected to torture for 10 days in late January and early February at the Ain Borja prison in Casablanca. The ministry said two prisoners assaulted and abused the prison's deputy warden Jan. 29. When the two were joined by five other inmates, the warden summoned guards who overpowered the prisoners and returned them to their cells, the ministry said. It said the two were given solitary confinement but the other five were spared the same punishment.

American specialist doctors to help Lebanese

BEIRUT (R) — Five American doctors of Lebanese origin arrived in Lebanon Sunday to help war victims. "We are here on a fact finding mission and to assist local doctors and help patients who need us," said Dr. George Jaber, spokesman for the specialist doctors. He said the results of the trip would be reported to the Washington-based American-Lebanese League. The doctors include a cardiologist, a neurologist and three surgeons.

Closed border reflects depth of Cairo-Tripoli rift

By Bahgat Badie
Reuters

CAIRO — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's rejection of an offer by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to reopen their common border has demonstrated the depth of mistrust between the two leaders.

Arab diplomats said the episode may also reflect Libya's sense of isolation as Egypt resumes a leading role in Arab politics.

Mubarak's rebuff came a day after Egypt's state minister for foreign affairs, Boutros Ghali, praised the Libyan offer as a step that could lead to the consolidation of relations.

"Qadhafi says that he will reopen the border. For what? To send bombs and saboteurs," Mubarak said, contradicting his minister.

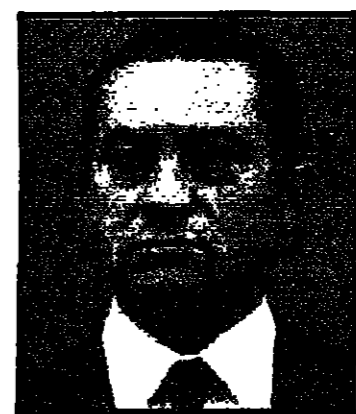
An Arab diplomat said Mubarak's remarks "reflect a long record of mistrust and lack of confidence between the two Egyptian presidents and the fiery Libyan leader."

"Qadhafi must be feeling the pinch of political isolation in the Arab World after the restoration of ties between Egypt and most Arab countries," he added.

Qadhafi has assailed the 11 Arab leaders who resumed full



Muammar Qadhafi



Hosni Mubarak

diplomatic ties with Egypt following the Arab League summit last November.

A league decision freed member states to resume ties with Cairo, ostracised since its 1979 pact with Israel.

Bad relations between Cairo and Tripoli date back more than a decade to Qadhafi's attempt to force a merger between the two neighbours in 1972. Tensions flared into a brief border war in July, 1977.

Since Mubarak assumed the presidency after the assassination of Anwar Sadat in 1981, Cairo has on several occasions accused Libya of backing sabotage operations in Egypt.

Qadhafi also opposed Egypt's Middle East peace poli-

cy and continued to champion an Arab boycott of Egypt.

Arab diplomats said Mubarak was particularly enraged by remarks made by Qadhafi that Libya would boycott the Arab League if Egypt's membership was restored.

Al Gomhoureya newspaper said Thursday Qadhafi had warned Arab states that he would not attend any Arab summit to which Cairo was invited.

Diplomats said Qadhafi's attitude was inconsistent with attempts made by Sudan and other Arab and African countries to mediate between the two countries.

They said Mubarak was trying to garner Arab support

to help him reinstate Cairo's membership in the league.

In an abrupt change of tone, Qadhafi Monday said he would withdraw his troops from the border region since he had never sought to topple the Egyptian government through military force.

But Mubarak said later that Qadhafi had never had troops near the border and cautioned him against foul play.

"Qadhafi is bluffing the Libyan people... I warn him, I warn him very severely against foul play. I know all his tricks," Mubarak said.

"He (Qadhafi) says that he is withdrawing Libyan forces. What forces? He has no forces along the border and we have no forces there either."

All Arab countries except Algeria, Libya, Lebanon and Syria have restored ties with Cairo.

The government-owned English-language Egyptian gazette said Qadhafi had followed his announced intention to withdraw his forces with a virulent verbal attack against Egypt.

"Qadhafi lavishly hurled accusations against Egypt and used the most vituperative and abusive of words, reiterating his sickening references to Camp David as David stables," it said.

Speaking for the Palestinians

(Continued from page 4)

accept Palestinian self-determination. He is saying, 'I want to dominate you in perpetuity.' We, on the other hand, accept the principle that the two people must co-exist on the basis of equality. Neither can dominate the other. What political form that takes is up to the two peoples to determine.

The central problem from the Palestinian perspective, he said, is that "while we say that Israeli Jews exist...the other side says that we don't exist — that we are Arabs, Jordanians, Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian or something else. We are everything else but Palestinians, and those of us who have remained there must be beaten and subordinated."

Does Abu Lughod's indication of flexibility on the question of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation mean that he is open to an eventual Palestinian-Jordanian union?

"I told Shultz that the Palestinians want to know that at the end of the process there will be a Palestinian state," he replied. "Once they had such an independent state, the Palestinians would be free to join Jordan, Egypt or Israel."

"The reason we want to have an independent state is to avoid a worse future, which could be called an Armenisation or a Bantustanisation of the Palestinian people, which are the two futures envisaged for them by the Israelis or the Reagan plan."

He bridled at the idea that Jordan is Palestine and that Palestinians in the West Bank should a priori be linked to Jordan because most Jordanians are ethnically Palestinians.

"Jordan is not Palestine. If you walk in the streets of Amman and ask anyone what he is and he'll say 'I am originally from Nabulus, but I am a Jordanian.' He travels on a Jordanian passport and salutes his king. He has a Palestinian ethnic connection and will support the Palestinian struggle, but he considers himself a Jordanian — as do his children who

were born in Amman."

So what connection does Abu Lughod of Jaffa have with Nabulus and Ramallah?

"A great deal," he replied. "I sang the songs of Palestine as a youth. I took special pride in Nabulus and Gaza, as well as Haifa and Jaffa. They are ours. Ours is a small, territorially-based nationalism. That is unfortunate, but that is what it is. It is strengthened by the fact that we share a collective memory of expulsion, dispossession and genocide."

On the subject of the recent PLO attack on an Israeli bus, Abu Lughod said:

"A national liberation movement cannot abandon its goals or techniques. Israel has not abandoned any of its methods of killing Palestinians — they kill us in Lebanon, in the West Bank and Gaza. Just because the Palestinians say they want peace doesn't mean they have to alter their methods or surrender. But in fact, they have altered their methods where appropriate — such as the situation in the West Bank, where the Palestinians are not using weapons."

But how do such raids benefit the Palestinian struggle?

"I have no idea. Who knows, in the long course of history? Did the Algerians or Mozambicans benefit a great deal from their violence?" he asked, referring to their struggles against French and Portuguese colonialists.

"If you are a national liberation movement, you have to continue your struggle by all legitimate means — in the U.N., before world opinion and in the territories. You struggle everywhere. Sometimes you make mistakes. I am not in a position to evaluate the correctness of such an action."

"As long as the Israelis are beating the hell out of Palestinians in the West Bank and carrying out air-raids on our people in Lebanon, I don't think Israelis are in any way justified in even raising the question. What is a stone thrown or even a bus attack relative to the air-raids Israel continues to carry out against our

people?"

Asked whether both sides would not always be able to justify their own violence by citing the misdeeds of the other, Abu Lughod lost his equable tone and responded angrily. "That is not true. There is a tremendous asymmetry in the power relationship between the two. The Palestinians are the victims. It is different when Israel carries out an air-raid to continue its domination and suppression, and when the Palestinians defend themselves."

Abu Lughod said the Palestinians have no faith that if they abandon armed struggle, Israel will respond in a positive way.

But aren't the Palestinians under-cutting their chances of achieving a West Bank and Gaza state, and a better life for their children by upholding violent struggle?

"I don't think so. This is the struggle between a colonised people and a coloniser...Ultimately, you make the cost too high for the coloniser to pay. In every colonial struggle, the colonisers scream, 'You are barbarian primitives who massacre women and children.' That is what the Israelis say. The tactics the Israelis are using now have been used many times before, and the response is predictable. It leads nowhere."

But it is not a mischaracterisation of the situation to view the Israelis as classic colonialists like the French or British?

"No. In the West Bank and Gaza the Israelis are real colonialists. Let us forget that they have taken my home in Jaffa, and focus instead on the West Bank and Gaza. There, the Israelis are in the same situation as the British were in Palestine in the 1930s."

The question, Abu Lughod went on, is whether Israel can sustain its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza over the long haul so that it pays for them to continue? So far they have done so, and the areas have been a captive market, with cheap Arab

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AMMAN JORDAN

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Growth in national electricity demand remains low but above industrialised countries' rates

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The domestic demand for energy in Jordan grew by 4.2 per cent in 1987 against 1.8 per cent in 1986, and the country spent 7.2 per cent of its Gross National Product (GNP) for its energy needs, according to data and figures obtained by the Jordan Times.

The statistics — estimated unofficial figures compiled from Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) documents — showed that the total demand for energy in the country was the equivalent of 2,992 tonnes of oil, compared to 2,871 tonnes in 1986.

Translated into dinars, it means that the national expenditure for energy in the year 1987 was about JD 139 million of the estimated GNP of JD 1,926 million, to which the services sector contributed 71 per cent, followed by the industry sector (18.4 per cent), the agriculture sector (6.3 per cent) and others (4.3 per cent).

The growth in demand for electricity in 1987 remained at a low of about 9.5 per cent, compared to the average of 18 per cent during 1980-1985. However, the growth rate remains high when compared to the two to three per cent in industrialised countries.

The main factors behind the relatively low growth in demand for electricity are seen by experts as the national energy conservation policy, which includes the annual six-month daytime saving period in summer when Jordan makes use of one extra hour of daylight, and increased use of solar energy for domestic purposes.

Furthermore, the experts say, new advisory centres set up by the JEA and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources have been highly instrumental in instilling public awareness of how energy could be conserved through technically advanced methods as well as through avoiding wastage.

Jordan produced a total of 3,486 GWH (gigawatt hour = 1000 megawatt hours) of electricity — including exports to Syria. Of the total, 2,668 GWH were consumed locally, with the industrial sector accounting for 39.3 per cent (39 per cent in 1986), followed by the domestic sector (28.5 per cent — 30.3 per cent in 1986), the commercial sector (10.6 per cent — 11.6 per cent in 1986), water pumping (15.6 per cent — 14 per cent in 1986), street lighting (2.5 per cent — 2.4 per cent in 1986) and others (2.9 per cent — 2.7 per cent in 1986). The average per capita consumption was 1,092 KWH compared with 990 KWH in 1986.

JEA facilities accounted for

88.8 per cent of the total production and registered an increase of 18.6 per cent over 1986. The remainder was produced by other producers including the Irbid District Electricity Company (nine per cent) and others — mainly large industrial plants — with a total of 3.2 per cent.

Peak load

The peak load in the 1987 was tentatively set at 593 megawatts, including a 91-megawatt load for exports to Syria, compared to 558 megawatts in 1986. The total installed capacity in the country remained 979 megawatts in 1987, and it is expected to go by up to 60 megawatts when two 30-megawatt gas-run turbines at the newly discovered natural gas fields at Al Rishah near the border with Iraq go operational by the end of 1988.

The JEA has already awarded a contract for the supply of the generating units and work is progressing on a two-stage 310-kilometre 132/33 KV line to link the Rishah unit with the national grid. The cost of the project is \$30 million.

The total number of electricity subscribers rose to 460,000 by the end of 1987 — representing 96 per cent of the population — from 431,000 at the end of 1986. The average outage in the year was nine hours compared to 16 hours in 1986, and the JEA attributes this 94 per cent dependability to improved performance of its facilities and personnel.

About 96 per cent of the total rural population in the country now receives electricity, and the JEA is going ahead with its rural electrification programme to maximise power supply and over all outlying regions in the Kingdom.

Key statistics

Other key statistics of the electricity generation and distribution system in Jordan are:

— Of the total production of 3,486 GWH, steam-run facilities produced 3,302 GWH, diesel generators produced 160 GWH, gas turbines produced 5 GWH and hydro-power accounted for 19 GWH.

— Exports to Syria totalled 334 GWH in 1987, compared to 214



Steam turbines at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (File photo)

GWH in 1986.

— The total fuel used for power generation was 912 tonnes (fuel oil 901 tonnes and diesel 11 tonnes) in 1987, against 811 tonnes (792 tonnes of fuel oil and 19 tonnes of diesel) in 1986.

— The general thermal efficiency — relative to total production and total number of involved personnel — during 1987 was 33.5 per cent compared to 31.9 per cent in 1986.

— The total length of transmission lines with a capacity of 132 KV and above stood at 2,043 circuit kilometres at the end of 1987, against 1,951 circuit kilometres in 1986.

— The total installed capacity of 132/33KV substations rose from 1493 MVA (megavolt ampere) at the end of 1986 to 1573 MVA at the end of 1987.

— The assets of the Jordan Electricity Authority were estimated at JD 284 million at the end of 1987 compared to JD 274 million in 1986.

— A total of 5,168 people were employed in the electricity sector during 1987, and the average production stood at 674 MWH in 1987, compared to 4,688 people and 630 MWH in the previous year.

— Electricity production rose from a peak load of 244 megawatts in 1981 to 593 megawatts

(including exports) in 1987.

— Of the total installed capacity of 979 megawatts, steam-run generators accounted for 696 megawatts, gas for 182 megawatts, diesel for 94 megawatts and hydro-power for seven megawatts.

— Forecasts for electricity demand indicate a maximum annual demand growth rate of 11.2 per cent (meaning a total production capacity of 574 megawatts) by 1988, 9.2 per cent (697 megawatts) by 1990, 6.9 per cent (971 megawatts) by 1995, 5.3 per cent (1255 megawatts) by 2000 and 4.4 per cent (1534 megawatts) by 2005. These figures include non-JEA producers.

— The electricity sector accounted for 27 per cent (equivalent to 808 tonnes of oil) of total energy consumption in 1987, rising from 16.3 per cent (equivalent to 348 tonnes of oil).

— The demand for petroleum products in the year 1987 in terms of equivalent tonnes of oil was: under: liquefied petroleum gas — 104 tonnes; gasoline — 335 tonnes; aviation fuel 173 tonnes; kerosene — 142 tonnes; diesel 772 tonnes and fuel oil — 1143 tonnes. These figures do not include losses and refinery consumption.

— According to JEA figures, the total population in the East Bank

stood at 2.86 million with 13 large cities and 985 villages (of which 706 are supplied with power).

Changed plans

Following the discovery of promising fields of natural gas at the Al Rishah fields, the JEA has indefinitely postponed plans to expand the Aqaba Thermal Power Station and raise its capacity from the present 260 megawatts to 530 megawatts. In addition to the already ordered two 30-megawatt gas turbines for Al Rishah, the JEA plans to increase the capacity at the gas fields provided exploration work in the area indicate higher reserves.

The JEA now holds the presidency of the newly set up Arab Union of Producers, Transmitters and Distributors of Electricity. The union, which was formed at a meeting of Arab energy ministers in Tunis late last year, will bring together all organisations related to power production and distribution in Arab countries.

A national training centre for electricity technicians opened its door late last year near Zarqa. The JEA facility, which was established with local and foreign help (Japan contributed a good share), now trains JEA personnel as well as a few nationals of other Arab countries in electricity generation, distribution and management.

Nazer to discuss cooperation with non-OPEC nations

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer was to leave Sunday for the United States, Britain and Mexico to discuss cooperation with the non-OPEC producers, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

It said Nazer would go on to Vienna, headquarters of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, for a meeting of the group's price panel Saturday to review a production audit for the first quarter of 1988.

Oil prices initially surged on news of that meeting. But analysts say the panel can do little to bolster falling world prices without the cooperation of non-OPEC producers.

An idea currently being floated is for a five per cent cut in exports by non-OPEC nations equivalent to about 250,000 barrels per day (BPD), in return for a five per cent output cut by OPEC of around 850,000 BPD.

Analysts said talks in London last month between non-OPEC states Egypt, Mexico, Angola, Colombia, Malaysia, China and Oman were a major factor in Saudi Arabia's policy reversal on the need for a meeting of OPEC's price committee.

Some OPEC grades of crude oil have traded as low as \$4 below the \$18 reference price in recent weeks, because of a world glut and price discounting by member states.

Nazer is due to visit Houston on April 4 and 5 for the annual board meeting of ARAMCO, the Arab American Oil Company.

Turkey suspends new trade credit to Iraq

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has suspended new trade credit to Iraq from April 1 because of Iraqi debts to Turkey, the Anatolian News Agency reported Sunday.

Anatolian quoted Turkish Finance Minister Kucukbaltaci as saying a new conference in Baghdad Saturday that the measure would last until the end of 1988.

"Letters of credit have been temporarily stopped so as to examine the accounts," Altmetocin said.

Letters of credit issued before April 1 would be valid, he added. Turkish newspapers have estimated Iraq's debt to neighbouring Turkey at between \$1.5 and 2.2 billion.

Iraq supplies a third of Turkey's oil requirements and two-way trade was \$2.1 billion last year.

South Africa hit by rash of corporate pullouts

By Christopher Wilson
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Four big foreign companies said this week that they are pulling out of South Africa against a backdrop of renewed international outrage over Pretoria's latest crackdown on black opposition groups.

Newmont Mining Corporation of the U.S. said Wednesday it would sell its share interests in four South African firms.

State-owned British Steel Corporation and two other British firms — Packaging Giant Metal Box Plc and International Services Company Bet Plc — also announced plans to sell their assets and withdraw.

The new disinvestment activity coincided with international con-

demnation of a South African military raid into neighbouring Botswana and the killing in Paris of a representative of the African National Congress (ANC).

Pretoria has denied any involvement in the Paris killing. The international outcry has grown since Pretoria earlier this month banned 17 black dissident groups and plunged into a worsening conflict with anti-apartheid churches.

South African business leaders said the crackdown revived a campaign in the U.S. Congress for more punitive economic measures against Pretoria and heaped pressure on President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to abandon their long-held anti-sanctions policies.

"...The question arises as to how long the U.S. will maintain this internationally unpopular position after a change of president, or if there are further security actions by our government, domestically or in the region," said Harry Oppenheimer, South Africa's most eminent businessman and former chairman of the giant Anglo American and De Beers corporations.

Three of the four firms now joining the corporate exodus from South Africa cited commercial rather than political reasons. Political analysts say, however, that the real reason for the wave of disinvestment is a mix of political and economic factors coupled with pressure by anti-apartheid activists and shareholders, particularly in the United States.

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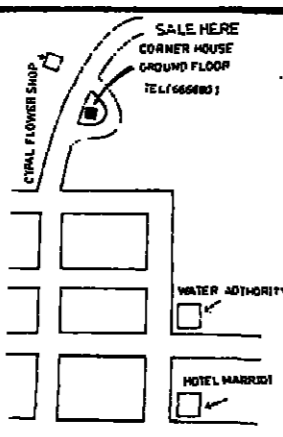
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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Sunday April 3, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	243414	JD 322,617	238
Top three companies:			
Housing Bank	97342	JD 165,420	3
Intermediate Petrochemicals	19050	JD 26,704	26
Arab Bank	130	JD 14,788	6
Parallel market:	10830	JD 7,800	—
Development bonds:	1690	JD 18,089	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

Tabbaa meets Indian construction sector team

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa conferred in his office Saturday with a trade delegation representing the construction sector in India.

The delegation members briefed the minister on India's expertise in this field, while the minister expressed Jordan's readiness to cooperate with India in construction and trade.

Tabbaa said that Jordan was also willing to import more goods from India, the main importer of Jordanian phosphate, potash and fertilisers.

Tabbaa also said that Jordan would welcome the organisation of a Indian trade fair in Amman.

ECONOMY BRIEFS

VILLAGE POWERED: The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Royal Scientific Society Sunday announced the completion of a project for the electrification of the Jurf Al Darawish village, employing solar and wind power. The remote village could not be supplied with power from the national grid, and both departments cooperated in setting up solar and wind power systems to generate electricity in the first such project in the Kingdom.

JUST BUILDING: A local construction firm Sunday signed a contract with the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) to set up living quarters for JUST students at a cost of JD 4.3 million. The project will consist of 10 buildings of a total area of 40,000 square metres with basic utilities and facilities. The first part of the project will be completed in 12 months, and the second phase is expected to take another 23 months to complete.

MUNICIPAL LOAN: A fund set up by the Arab Cities Organisation has decided to offer loans to a number of Jordanian municipalities totalling 575,000 Kuwaiti dinars, according to Al Dustour Arabic daily. The paper said that the bank's board of directors took the decision during its recent meeting in Tunis. The loan will go to Irbid, Mafrq and Anjara.

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Poll: Dukakis-Jackson ticket could beat Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — A Democratic ticket headed by Michael Dukakis with Jesse Jackson as his running mate would defeat Vice-President George Bush in a general election, according to a poll released Saturday.

Without Jackson, a Dukakis-Bush contest would be a toss-up, and alone Jackson would be crushed by the Republican vice president; but together the two Democrats would win, the Roper Organisation survey showed.

Dukakis and Jackson are neck-and-neck in the race for delegates to the Democratic presidential nominating convention this summer, but neither man is likely to win the 2,082 needed to clinch the nomination on the first ballot, leading to speculation the nomination will be brokered by party leaders.

Dukakis campaigned Saturday in Wisconsin, which holds presidential primary votes Tuesday, while Jackson was in Colorado, where presidential preference caucuses will be held Monday.

Until recently Democrats have appeared reluctant to criticise Jackson, but now New York City Mayor Ed Koch has levelled a public blast at the black civil rights leader, saying his policies would bankrupt the nation and that Jews would be foolish to vote for him.

Koch's comments, in radio interview and remarks to reporters

Friday, came less than three weeks before the important New York state primary, when 275 convention delegates will be at stake.

Koch, a Democrat, said Jackson was sympathetic to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"They (Jews who would vote for Jackson) got to be crazy, in the same way that they'd be crazy if they were black and voted for someone who was praising both the Jew and the racist supporters of the South African administration," he said.

The Roper poll, a survey of more than 1,000 voters conducted for U.S. News and World Report magazine, showed a Dukakis-Jackson ticket defeating Bush and the running mate of his choice by 47-42 per cent.

It was the first major poll matching a Dukakis-Jackson team against Bush.

Alone, Jackson would lose to Bush by 51-35 per cent, while Dukakis without Jackson would lose by 44-43 per cent, it showed.

Dukakis-Gore could do it, too

The poll also showed a ticket of

Dukakis and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore would beat Bush, but by a slimmer 45-44 per cent. Gore trails Dukakis and Jackson in the Democratic race.

Other polls have shown Dukakis is the only Democrat with a chance to defeat the vice president in the general election. Bush appears certain to be the Republican nominee since Senator Robert Dole dropped out of the race earlier this week.

Dukakis needs to win in Wisconsin, a dairy and industrial state, after a crushing loss to Jackson in the Michigan caucuses last Saturday.

But the Wisconsin voting is seen as only a prelude to the big contest in New York state, where Jews made up 25 per cent of Democratic primary voters four years ago.

Koch, who is Jewish and a strong supporter of Israel, said Jackson's domestic policies were too expensive and his defence policies would amount to disarmament.

In Wisconsin, 81 Democratic National Convention delegates are at stake. In Colorado, 45 Democratic delegates will be decided.

Bush has not done any major campaigning in Wisconsin and was spending the weekend at his seaside summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Philippine military vows to hunt Honasan 'forever'

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military vowed Sunday to hunt down escaped coup leader Gregorio Honasan, and the renegade colonel's wife warned him to be on guard against attempts to kill him.

"We will go on forever until he calls it quits or he goes to another country or he is captured," said Brigadier-General Rodolfo Biazon, head of the Capital Defence Command.

Biazon said searches in Manila and surrounding provinces had yielded no trace of Honasan who escaped from his navy prison ship in Manila bay Saturday, taking with him 14 of his guards.

Honasan's wife, Jane, said she feared for her husband's safety. "Take care. This time, they may no longer try to catch you alive," she said in a radio interview Sunday.

Honasan had been detained on the ship since his arrest in December for leading an attempted coup against President Corazon Aquino last August that left 53 dead and 300 wounded.

"Spare no effort"

Aquino said she would "spare no effort" to recapture Honasan and warned soldiers they would face "the full force of the law" if they tried to help him in his flight.

Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa said soldiers tracking Honasan had not been issued shoot-to-kill orders.

"If and when they recapture him, orders (are) to arrest him together with the others and bring him in for immediate detention," de Villa said.

A private Manila radio station, DZRH, quoted police sources as saying a six-car convoy had been seen pulling out of an area near the Manila waterfront shortly after the escape and that the cars might have picked up Honasan and his group.

Red alert

Biazon said troops were guarding against possible attacks by Honasan's followers within the army who might want to destabilise the Aquino government.

The military has been on red alert, the highest state of combat readiness, since Honasan and his guards escaped on two rubber rafts.

Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordóñez warned the media against printing or broadcasting interviews with Honasan.

"He poses a clear and present danger and the government has a duty to stop such publicity," Ordóñez said.

Aquino again on defensive after Honasan's escape

By Chaitanya Kalbag
Renter

MANILA — Coup leader Colonel Gregorio Honasan's escape from captivity Saturday has dramatically revived threats to Philippine President Corazon Aquino's power, analysts said.

"Honasan's escape couldn't have occurred at a less convenient moment for Aquino," an Asian diplomat said.

Aquino is scheduled to visit China from April 14 on her first overseas trip since November 1986.

Crucial talks on the future of the two U.S. military bases in the Philippines open Tuesday.

The same day about 100 top-ranking Japanese businessmen are scheduled to arrive in Manila to review Tokyo's flagging investments in the cash-strapped country.

"Everything has received a setback," the diplomat said. "If the country's most wanted man can slip through the government's hands so easily, embarrassing questions about the Philippines' stability are going to be asked again."

Since August, when Honasan led the most serious of five coup attempts Aquino has faced in her two-year rule, the embattled president has moved to end unrest among her troops.

She pushed through a 60 per cent pay raise for the 160,000-strong military and replaced Armed Forces Chief Fidel Ramos in a reshuffle of top military posts.

Late last month she retired 30 generals, streamlined command structures and demanded "more soldiers behind guns and less behind desks" in the fight against Communist rebels.

"I myself now feel more comfortable. I can plan now for the future," Aquino told reporters last week.



Gregorio 'Gringo' Honasan

hind desks" in the fight against Communist rebels.

"I myself now feel more comfortable. I can plan now for the future," Aquino told reporters last week.

Clouded future

But political analysts said the future seemed clouded after Honasan's apparently easy getaway from a prison ship.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The escape soured government jubilation over last week's capture of three high-ranking Communist leaders on the 19th anniversary of the insurgency.

Analysts said the grim-faced Aquino had sounded almost querulous in a television statement Saturday evening.

Revealing that court-martial proceedings against Honasan had been about to begin, she said the coup leader had been given humane treatment. "But what have we received in return? We have received continuing bet-

royal," she said.

An Asian military analyst said Aquino's warning to the military not to aid Honasan, and fears voiced by a military spokesman that Honasan and troops loyal to him might mount another revolt, had only helped to heighten public anxiety.

"The way Honasan has been handled from the beginning was so mushy," the analyst said. "He was not kept in a high-security military prison, lived in style on the prison ship at taxpayers' expense, and was allowed frequent visits by his family."

Francisco Nemenzo, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines, said young middle-ranking officers sympathetic to Honasan were unimpressed by Aquino's leadership changes.

Colonels count

"It's the colonels who count. They are the ones who command the troops in the field. And I'm afraid they are not Aquino's men," Nemenzo said. "No amount of reshuffling of generals will alter the balance of forces in the military."

A Western diplomat said he did not think Honasan would make any quick moves against the government.

"He will regroup his men, unleash a propaganda barrage, and choose a moment when the government makes some big mistake to strike, if at all," the diplomat said.

Nemenzo said Aquino had not yet been able to be effective.

"This government is racing against time. If it can't stabilise soon it can never prove its capacity to change people's lives," he said.

U.S. officials say Noriega kidnap plan was discussed

SANTA BARBARA, California (R) — Reagan administration officials discussed kidnapping Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega and bringing him to the United States to stand trial, U.S. officials said Saturday.

But the officials, who requested anonymity, played down the plan and insisted no new decisions regarding Panama had been made.

The officials spoke after the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday that Secretary of State George Shultz had proposed the kidnapping idea to President Reagan this week. It said the plan was shelved after opposition from Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci.

In Rome, Shultz dodged questions about the report, but at one point called it hare-brained.

The Los Angeles Times said the idea was to bring Noriega to the United States to stand trial on drug-running charges.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the United States has considered a wide range of diplomatic, political and military options in an effort to oust Noriega, but he refused to say whether kidnapping was among them.

Fitzwater said the military options did not include offensive

action but something similar to the troop reinforcements announced Friday. The Defence Department said it was sending 1,300 more troops to Panama.

"The only thing that's been approved is this increase in security forces," said one official who is staying in Santa Barbara while Reagan is spending a 10-day Easter holiday at his ranch nearby.

The Reagan administration has ruled out military intervention but warned that its patience with Noriega is limited.

U.S. officials confirmed published reports that a plan to kidnap Noriega and bring him to the United States to face the charges had been considered at a White House meeting last Thursday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, indicated that the plan, reportedly proposed by Shultz, had received little support.

They said the decision to send more security forces to Panama was made at the Thursday meeting and no decision on any new U.S. action was imminent.

Psychological warfare

Meanwhile, in Panama City, government sources Saturday condemned Washington's decision to fly in more American troops to defend the U.S.-controlled Panama canal.

A government official, who asked not to be identified, said the

United States was waging psychological warfare against its former ally in its drive to oust Noriega.

The Panamanian sources said the U.S. decision to send troops was an example of American aggression aimed at keeping control of the strategic canal.

Control is due to be passed to Panama on the last day of 1999, under treaties governing the narrow isthmus between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Also Saturday, Panama Archbishop Marcos McGrath set a Monday deadline for Noriega to reply to the Roman Catholic prelate's offer to mediate between the 50-year-old general and opposition groups calling for his ouster.

In a pastoral letter, he said: "Initiatives for resolving the crisis that is overwhelming the country must be taken... with the greatest haste possible." Otherwise, he would withdraw the offer.

The National Civic Crusade and other opposition parties have agreed to the talks, Mc Grath said.

"Never have we Panamanians lived a lent with such tension, division and increasing want in great sectors," the letter said.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Justice Department to conduct its own probe

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese will face a probe by his own Justice Department after a special prosecutor's investigation is completed, Department sources said Saturday. The sources said the inquiry would be conducted by the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility, which has the power to recommend to President Reagan penalties ranging from a reprimand to dismissal. They said the inquiry would begin once Special Prosecutor James Mc Kay completes his investigation of Meese's finances and his role in an Iraqi oil pipeline project that proposed payoffs to Israeli officials. Mc Kay said Friday he did not have the evidence to indict Meese at present but his investigation would continue at least through April.

Sihanouk rejects immediate talks

PEKING (AP) — Kampuchean resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk Saturday rejected a proposal to resume talks with the head of the Vietnam-backed Kampuchean government, saying such talks could not take place until the regime is independent and "purely patriotic." In a letter to Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen, Sihanouk accused Vietnam of being the main obstacle to finding a way of ending nine years of fighting in Kampuchea. "I would accept having a third round of talks" with you... but the question is... if you are sufficiently independent of Hanoi to sincerely attempt with me to resolve this problem," Sihanouk said in the letter, made available to the Associated Press Saturday. Hun Sen and Sihanouk held talks in Paris in December and January, but Sihanouk in February refused to continue with a third round originally scheduled for this month in Pyongyang and said future talks would be "sterile and futile."

IRA 'considering end to violence'

LONDON (AP) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) is considering a permanent end to using violence in its campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland, the Sunday Times reported. The weekly said the outlawed rebel movement is discussing not a limited cease-fire but a "once and for all renunciation" of violence. The newspaper suggested the leadership is split on the issue. The newspaper attributed its report to unspecified sources in the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), which has been meeting privately in recent weeks with Sinn Féin, the legal political wing of the IRA. The SDLP is the main political party of the North's Roman Catholic minority, from which the IRA draws its support.

By Bob Thomas
Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD — For many years, French filmmaker Louis Malle didn't think he wanted to deal with a very traumatic memory of his childhood.

"It was like my secret, something I didn't want to talk about, even less so make a film about," he said. "But it stuck with me so vividly that 10 years ago I decided to give it a try."

The result of his painful recollection is "Au Revoir les Enfants" ("Goodbye, Children"), one of the five nominees for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film of 1987.

"Au Revoir les Enfants" epitomises the kind of films entered this year in Oscar's foreign-language category.

The winner will be announced April 11.

Most of the movies are highly personal, either in the subject matter or the years of devotion given to the project by the filmmaker. The other nominees are: "Babette's Feast" (Denmark), based on a short story by Isak Dinesen, tells of two unmarried and very pious sisters who take a French political refugee, Babette, into their home in Norway in return for housekeeping. She later repays them with her art: the feast. The director, Gabriel Axel, spent 14 years trying to get his movie made.

"Course Completed" (Spain), about a depressed writer who escapes to the seashore after a failure and is followed by an old flame and his bothersome son. The film was co-written, produced and directed by Jose Luis Garcia.

"The Family" (Italy), an epic history of 80 years in the life of a Roman family, told with loving care by Ettore Scola ("La Bal").

"Pathfinder" (Norway), written and directed by Nils Gaup, a

tale of revenge by a Lapp boy whose family is killed in a raid.

Malle based "Au Revoir les Enfants" on his experience as a boy of 11 during the German occupation of France. His well-to-do Paris family sent him to the safety of a Roman Catholic boarding school in Fontainebleau. There he became friends with a brilliant Jewish boy who was being hidden from the Gestapo by a priest. The ruse was uncovered, and three Jewish boys as well as the head priest were sent to their deaths in concentration camps.

"I began writing notes when I

was making a film of the same period, "Lacombe Lucien" (1974). Malle remarked in an interview. "I decided there were little things there, but not necessarily a film."

"After I had been working in America a few years, all those things came back, maybe because I was far from home. My childhood returned so strongly that I tried to put it into a screenplay."

"Maybe I decided to make peace with (my memories)," he said. "Also I reached the point that I thought I should give it away, that it was interesting enough to make it into a film so

other people could share it with me."

"From that point I was really exhilarated and excited. I wasn't sure I would make a good film, but I was sure the material was really strong. Once I had the first draft of the screenplay, I started preproduction and I worked with great enthusiasm. It was like a deliverance in a way."

Malle told his associates from the beginning that he would not make the film unless he found two remarkable children for the leading roles because they had to carry the whole movie. After interviewing hundreds of Parisian

boys over a five-month period, he found his actors: Gaspard Manesse and Raphael Pejo, both inexperienced in film work.

Axel is a Danish director who has divided his career between his native land and France. He became obsessed with a Dinesen story about a woman who escaped a 19th-century French revolution to serve as cook for a pair of devout spinsters in a remote Danish village. Formerly a world-class chef, the refugee (Stephane Audran) devotes her entire winnings in a lottery to a feast in honour of the spinsters' late minister-father.

"Fourteen years ago when I tried to make the film, the French said, 'OK,' the Danes said, 'No,'" recalled Axel, who needed the backing of both countries. "I went from producer to producer, no action, no dialogue." They did not see the possibilities.

Axel needed between \$2.5 million and \$3 million to make "Babette's Feast." He could understand the Danish reluctance: "There are only 5 million people in Denmark, and even if every one of them went to the movie, it would not be enough to show a profit."

The Danish Film Institute finally provided 75 per cent of the budget. With rave reviews and the academy nomination, the investment seems secure.

Following his success with "Babette's Feast," Axel hopes to film a project he has nurtured for 20 years: a version of "Hamlet" based on the earliest histories of the saga from which Shakespeare borrowed his plot.

"The histories tell of the prince returning to Denmark to kill the uncle who murdered the king," Axel said. "But the original has a happy ending. Hamlet marries Ophelia, and they live happily ever after."



Young boys struggle through the Nazi occupation of France in Louis Malle's "Au Revoir les Enfants," a

film reflecting the director's personal childhood experience (File photo)

COLUMN 80000

Heart disease can indicate AIDS

ATLANTA (AP) — Heart disease can be an important early indicator of AIDS, occurring in an estimated 5 per cent of its victims, say researchers who studied AIDS patients in Paris and Miami. In the 1983-1986 study of 86 people with AIDS, 18 had heart disease and seven of those had heart disease before other AIDS-related ailments, said Dr. Evelyn Kinney of the University of Miami School of Medicine. She discussed the findings last week at the American College of Cardiology convention. Little could be done for AIDS patients suffering from tumour-based heart disease, she said. But cardiac disease stemming from infections such as tuberculosis, rather than from tumours, can be treated, prolonging the lives of the terminally ill patients, she said. "There were patients who, with treatment, survived as long as (AIDS) patients without heart disease," Kinney said. "Some of these patients, we did manage to prolong their lives for many months." Fourteen of the 18 AIDS heart patients were dead within four months of diagnosis, but the other four — all with infection-related heart disease — lived for about two years, she said.

Dangerous catch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A scallop fisherman's net snagged part of a solid-fuel rocket booster in the Atlantic Ocean east of here, and the boat brought the dangerous catch into port. The 450-kilogramme (1,000-pound) booster piece, about 2 metre (7 feet) square, contained unspent fuel that could have ignited if heated, said Dave Sargeant, assistant fire chief of the Cape Canaveral Volunteer Fire Department. Air Force spokesmen identified it as part of a Delta rocket booster — many such rockets have been launched from the Cape Canaveral complex. The Triton II, operated by Canaveral Seafoods, netted the motor Thursday while scalloping 35 kilometres east of the port, said U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Dan Brosseau. Brosseau said the ship's captain, Billy Phillips, notified the Coast Guard of his cargo when he reached port Friday. Sargeant said firefighters had some difficulty clearing the area because few people believed the benign-looking debris was dangerous. "People just didn't understand what it was they were handling," Sargeant said. "It's non-toxic until it burns."

Oops

LYON, France (R) — Two robbers who blew open a cash dispenser Saturday were a little careless — they also blew up all the money they were after. Police said 360,000 francs (\$64,000) were destroyed when the robbers blew up the cash distributor, their planned loot being reduced to a heap of charred bank notes. The robbers had arranged a getaway car, teargas grenades to ward off police and spikes to puncture pursuing cars, but had misjudged the amount of explosive they needed to crack open the machine.

'Zoo' cuisine

HONG KONG (R) — A holiday resort in south China bordering Hong Kong set up a zoo so it could acquire rare animals, which it then slaughtered and fed to guests, the China News Service said Saturday. Authorities who closed the restaurant said the animals ranged from monkeys to tigers and included pythons, owls, giant salamanders, buzzards and macaques. The news service did not say if there were any arrests.

Getting mean over brew

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission is taking Denmark and Ireland to court for being too mean to people importing beer in their personal luggage. It said last week that both countries were effectively denying European Community (EC) citizens their rights by setting unfairly low limits of 10 and 12 litres respectively. EC law provides for limits on personal imports of goods such as tobacco, perfumes and some alcoholic drinks — but not beer, the commission said. The case will be heard in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, where the commission is already trying to make the two countries drop rules aimed at preventing day trippers from claiming duty-free allowances. The incentive for importing large amounts of beer and other goods arises from widely differing tax rates in member states.